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The Scottish Text Society

THE POEMS

OF

ROBERT HENRYSON

THE POEMS
OF
ROBERT HENRYSON

EDITED BY
G. GREGORY SMITH

VOL. II.
(TEXT—VOL. I.)

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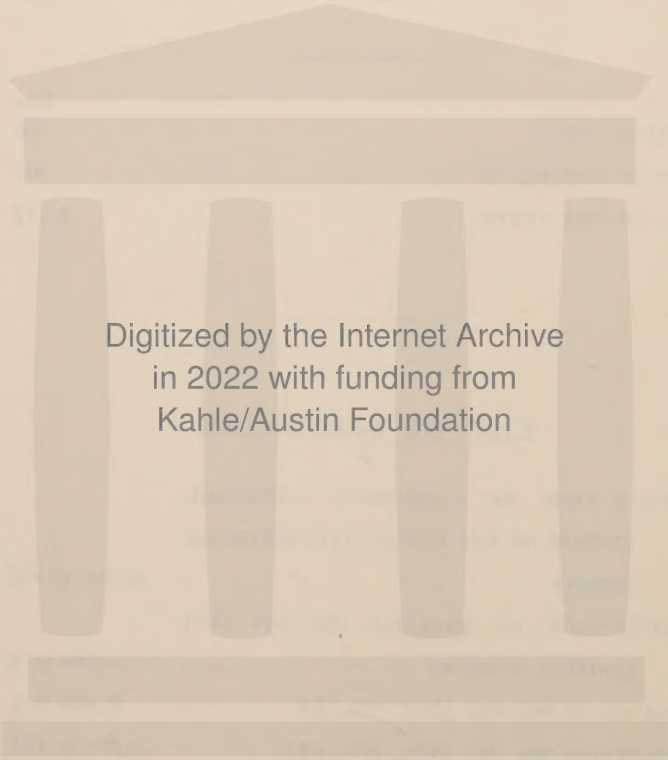
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PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS volume, the first of the text of The Poems of Robert Henryson, contains all the early versions of the *Fables*. The next volume (Vol. III.) will include the texts of the *Orpheus*, the *Testament of Cresseid*, and the Shorter Poems. Vol. I., containing the General Introduction and other matter, will appear last. By this order of publication scholars who are anxious to have the texts for their own purposes are not compelled to wait the pleasure of the editor in the preparation of his Introduction; and the editor, in turn, will have the advantage of considering fresh problems raised in the discussion of the ampler material now presented.

The earliest texts of the *Fables* are derived from five sources:—

I. The Edinburgh edition published in 1570 by Robert Lekpreuk for Henry Charteris (known as ‘Charteris’ in this edition).

Title-page.—The Morall Fabillis | of Esope the Phrygi- |
an, Compylit in Eloquent, and Ornate Scottis | Meter, be
Maister Robert Henryson, | Scholemaister of Dun- | fermeling. |

[*Type ornament*] | ¶ Dulcius Arrident Seria Picta Iocis. |
 ¶ Vt Naufragij leuamen est Portus, Ita Tranquillitas
 animi, seu Iucunditas, est quasi Vitæ Portus. | ¶ **Newlie**
Imprentit | at Edinburgh, be Robert Lekpreuik, at the Ex- |
 pensis of Henrie Charteris: and ar to be | sauld in his Buith,
 on the North syde | of the gait, abone the Throne. | ANNO. DO.
 M. D. LXX. | [*Type ornament at head and foot of page.*]

(*See the facsimile, facing p. viii in this volume.*)

Colophon.—¶ Imprentit at Edin- | burgh be Robert Lekpreuik,
 at the Expensis of | Henrie Charteris, the xvi day of
 Decem- | ber: the 3eir of God ane thousand | fyue
 hundreth, thre scoir, | Nyne 3eir. |

Collation.—A1^a Title. 1^b The Taillis contenit in the present
 Buke. Aij-N4^a The Fabillis of Esope. N4^b blank. 52
 folios.

The volume is a small quarto, printed in black-letter. The only known copy, which was purchased by the late Mr William Henry Miller of Craigentenny, near Edinburgh, is preserved in the library at Britwell Court, Bucks. In the preface to the Maitland Club reprint of Hart's edition of 1621, and again in Laing's edition of Henryson (1865), p. 264, it is stated that a copy of this edition was sold in 1695 at the dispersal of Sir Andrew Balfour's collection (Catalogue, p. 113). Laing records (*u.s.*, p. 264) that he had seen, "not many years since," a copy in private hands in Edinburgh.

II. Harleian MS. 3865, British Museum (known as 'Harleian' in this edition).

Title-page (MS.), on the verso of fol. 1, facing the Prolog.—The
 morall fabillis of | Esope compylit be | maister Robert
 Henrisoun | Scolmaister of Dun- | fermeling: | 1571. |

(*See the facsimile, facing p. x of this volume.*)

**The Morall Fabillis
of Elope the Phrygi-**

an, Compylit in Eloquent, and Ornate Scots
Meter, be Maister Robert Henryson,
Scholemaster of Dun-
fermeling.

1570

Dulcius Arrident Seria Picta Iocis.

*¶ Vi Navigij ieuamen est Portus. Et Tranquillitas
animi. seu Iucunditas. est quasi Vitz Portus.*

Reuolue Imprentit

at Edinburgh, be Robert Lekprieuk, at the Ex-
pensis of Henrie Charteris: and at to be
sauid in his Burch, on the North syde
of the gait, abone the Throne.

1570. A. N. N. O. D. O. M. D. L. X. X.

1570

The MS., which is written on paper (19 cm. × 28.5 cm.), extends to 75 folios, and contains 2968 lines. There are generally three stanzas, or from 19 to 25 lines on each page. The title-page, tailpiece, illustrations on ff. 3b and 43b (see the facsimiles facing pp. 7 and 121 of this volume), and 14 initial letters have been coloured, in a very crude way, probably by a later hand. The binding of the volume is modern.

The MS. is described by Laing, *u.s.*, pp. 228 and 266, and by Ward, *Catalogue of Romances in the British Museum*, ii. pp. 354-356.

III. The Makculloch MS., in the Library of the University of Edinburgh (Laing MSS. No. 149), and known as 'Makculloch' in this edition.

The Manuscript proper consists of Latin notes on logic by Magnus Makculloch (or Iohannis de Tayn), a Scots student at Louvain in 1477. The volume appears to have been in the hands of I. Purde, who may have been the scribe of the vernacular pieces on the blank pages. There are several of Henryson's poems on these pages. The extract from the *Fables* is written on the front fly-leaves.

The MS. was acquired by Dr David Laing in 1854, and was bequeathed by him to the University of Edinburgh. A description of the MS. will be found in the editor's *Specimens of Middle Scots* (1902), pp. lxvii-lxix.

IV. The Bannatyne MS. (1568) in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh (MSS. 1. 1. 6), and known as 'Bannatyne' in this edition.

The MS. has been reprinted by the Hunterian Club (1873-1902). The *Fables* will be found in Vol. IV. (1896).

V. A transcript by William Gibb, for George Chalmers, made in 1810 from the Asloan MS. (early sixteenth

century), and known as the 'Asloan-Chalmers' in this edition.

An account of the Asloan MS., based on notes made during an examination of the MS. when it was deposited in the British Museum (about fifteen years ago), is given in *Specimens of Middle Scots, u.s.*, pp. lxx-lxxii. The MS. appears to have contained the following fables by Henryson: (32) The fablis of Esope: and first of þe paddok and the mouß; (33) The preching of þe swallow; (34) Þe lyoun & the mouß; (35) Chanticler and þe fox; (36) Þe tod and þe wolf; (37) Þe parliament of bestis; (42) Þe tale of þe uplandis mouß and the borrowstouñ mouß. All, except the last, have been lost by the mutilation of the MS.

It is matter for regret that Lord Talbot de Malahide, to whom the MS. passed, in 1882, from the collection at Auchinleck, has declined to give the Scottish Text Society, and several independent workers in this country and abroad, permission to examine its pages. The text of the Tale of the Two Mice printed in this volume is taken from the Chalmers Transcripts preserved among the Laing MSS. in the Library of the University of Edinburgh (Laing MSS. 450*, ff. 236-240).

Of these sources, I-V., the Charteris print and the Harleian MS. give us what may be accepted as Henryson's complete text of the Fables and the original order of composition. The Bannatyne MS., though in some respects of great importance, is a selection of ten fables, made without regard to the place of each in the whole work. The Makculloch and Asloan-Chalmers texts are only fragments. The accompanying table of the con-

tents of these texts (pp. xx, xxi) will serve as a key to the arrangement in this volume. Discussion of the relationship of the texts to each other is reserved for the first volume.

It is not unlikely that the Fables were printed by Chepman and Myllar, who issued Henryson's *Orpheus* and two of his shorter poems (see Vol. III.); but evidence of this is at present entirely wanting. The later reprints of the *Fables*, subsequent to the Charteris and Harleian texts of 1569-1570 and 1571, may be thus briefly described:—

EDITIONS.

1. The Fabulous tales of | Esope the Phrygian, Compiled | *moste eloquently in Scottishe* | Metre by Master Robert | Henryson, & *now lately* | Englished. | Every tale Moralized most aptly to | this present time, worthy | to be read. | [*Ornament; with Motto*—Occulta Veritas Tempora patet] | Imprinted at London by | Richard Smith. | Anno 1577.

A copy of this edition was seen by Dr David Laing in the Library of Sion College (Press mark E B ix. 40). It had disappeared from that collection before 1864-5, when Laing was preparing his edition of the Poems. All efforts to trace it have been unavailing. Laing has given, in the Introduction to his edition of Henryson, the following description of "this little black volume" which he had written in his "younger days" before the book had gone astray.

"Title, 4 leaves, and A to H2 in eights, pp. 115 in sm. 8vo, black-letter.

On the back of the title are two twelve-line stanzas, in short metre, entitled, The Bookes Passport,—

'That man neare wrote
Whose wryte pleasd all mens mynd,' &c.

followed by Smith's dedication 'To Mr Richard Stonely,

Esquire, one of the foure tellers of the Q. Maiesties receyt of the Eschecker,' &c., by R. S. :—

'There came,' he says, 'unto my hande a Scottishe pamphlet of the Fabulous Tales of Esope, a worke, Sir, as I thinke, in that language wherein it was written, verie eloquent and full of great invention. And no doubt you shall finde some smatch thereof, although very rudely I have obscured the authour, and having two yeres since turned it into Englishe, I have kept it unpublished, hoping some one els of greater skill would not have let it lyen dead. But whether most men have that Nation in derision for their hollowe hearts and ungratefull mindes to this Countrey alwayes had (a people very subject to that infection), or thinking scorne of the authour or first inventer, let it passe, as frivolous and vaine matter: yet in my conceite there is learning for all sorts of people worthie of the memorie. Therefore, knowing not howe by any meanes to let you understand my good will towarde you, but by this meanes, at last putting all feare aside, I boldly presente this unto your worship, hoping, &c. — Yours at commandement. RICHARD SMITH.'

On the next leaf are 'The Contentes of the Booke;' after which is subjoined THE ARGUMENT BETWEEN ESOPÉ AND THE TRANSLATOUR.

LATE passing thorowe Paules Churchyarde
 Aside I cast mine eye,
 And ere I wist, to me appearde
 Sir Esope by and by,
 Apparellled both braue and fine,
 After the Scottissh guise.
 I stooode then still, with ardent eyne
 I viewde him twise or thrise.
 'Behold,' quoth he, 'now am I here,
 And faine would meete some one
 To speake English that would me leare.'
 With that quoth I anone :
 'Why, English, Sir, you speake right well—
 What more would you require?'
 'Yea, that's in prose : my tales to tell
 In verse I do desire.'
 'Alasse ! I am not for your tourne ;
 Ye must repayre unto
 The Innes of Court and Chancery,
 Where learned have to do.
 At Helicon I never came—
 The way I do not knowe ;
 (God Pan his servant, Sir, I am,
 And duetie to him owe).

On oaten pipe we still do play,—
 That's all that he teach can ;
 Of other lore he takes no way
 This Growtnole rusticke Pan. '
 Minervas impes they Orpheus keepe,
 In musicke they delite,
 To serve your turne before they sleepe,
 In verse to make you dite,
 Your Fables wise and eloquent
 With phrases feate and fine,
 Endewed with Apollo gent
 That passeth muse of mine.'
 'Content your selfe,' quoth Esope than,
 'Do thus much once for me,
 To learne me verse so as ye can
 Myselfe as playne as ye ;
 They do not care for Scottish bookes,—
 They list not looke that way :
 But if they would but cast their lookes
 Some time when they do play,
 Somewhat to see perhaps they might
 That then would like them wel,
 To teach them treade thair way aright,
 To blisse, from paines of hel.'
 'Farewel, good Phrygian Poet, now,
 I may no more sojourne.'
 'If not,' sayth Esope, 'then adew,
 Into Scotland I'll returne.'
 'Nay, rather will I venture hard
 And bring your minde to passe,
 If that I gaine to my rewarde
 King Midas eares of asse,
 And have a thousand ill reports
 Still tumbling downe on me,
 Than this to want unto all sorts
 And view of every eye.'
 Wherefore have here, good Reader, now,
 My rurall skillesse skill ;
 I aske no more but this of you,—
 One ynche of your good will :
 Which it to grant as I do crave,
 That's even as much as I would have.

HIS VERDICT ON HIS LABOUR.

ORPHEUS once did walke abroad
 'Mong fragrant flowers t'increase his glee,
 To set his harpe in one accorde
 In tune to make his strings agree,
 Whereby was heard such pleasant sounde
 That all the woodes thereof rebound.

And playing thus in pleasant shade,
 Wild beastes and men to him did come ;
 With musicke strayte them stones he made,
 His gift was such, them to transforme.
 He fell a sleepe, and or he wooke,
 In hand a while his harpe I tooke.

This Scottish *Orpheus* I meane,
 That *Esops* tales hath made to gree
 In Rethoricke both trim and cleane,
 That all my wittes bereft hath hee.
 His harpe, alas ! I make to jarre,
 And both his name and mine do marre ;
 But since I made them disagree,
 Leave me the blame, the Laurel he.

The contents of the volume are as follows :—

The Argument or Prologue.

'Though fayned Fables of auncient poetry,' p. 1, 9 stanzas of 7 lines each.

The tale of the Grosshead, Chauntecleare the Cock, and precious Stone, p. 3.

A cock sometime with feathers fresh and gay,' 8 stanzas of 7 lines. The Morall, p. 5, 6 stanzas, 'This gentle Jasp,' &c.

The pretty tale of the playne country Mouse, and deyntie towne Mouse, p. 7.

'Esoppe mine Author maketh mention,' 29 stanzas ; Moralitie, p. 14, 'Frendes ye may finde,' &c., 4 stanzas.

The pleasant tale of the Cock and the Foxe, how wyly beguyles himselfe.

'Though brutall beasts be irrationall,' 27 stanzas ; Moralitie, p. 23, 'Now worthie folke,' &c., 4 stanzas.

The pleasant tale howe this false dissembling Tod made his confession to the hypocrite fryer Wolfe Waytskayth.

'Leaving this wydow glad I you assure,' p. 24, 23 stanzas ; Moralitie, p. 30, 'This sudden death,' &c., 3 stanzas.

The Reticall tale of the sonne and heyre of the foresayd Foxe called Father Wars, also the Parlement of foure footed Beastes, holden by the Lyon, p. 31.

'This foresayd Foxe, that dide for his misdeeds,' 42 stanzas ; Moralitie, p. 42, 'Ryght as the myner,' &c., 7 stanzas.

The wofull tale of the playntif Dogge, agaynst the poore Sheepe, before Justice Wolfe, p. 44.

'Esoppe a tale puts in memory,' 16 stanzas ; Moralitie, p. 49, 'This selly sheepe,' &c., 9 stanzas.

The exemplative tale of the Lion and the Mouse ; with the Author's Prologue before, p. 51.

The prologue, p. 51, 'In mids of June that sweete season,' &c., contains 12 stanzas. The Tale, p. 54, 'A lion at his pray was overrunne,' 24 stanzas ; Moralitie, p. 60, 'As I suppose,' &c., 7 stanzas.

The notable tale of the preaching of the Swallow, p. 62.

'The hie prudence and working marvellous,' 38 stanzas; Moralitie, p. 72, 'Lo! worthy folke,' 9 stanzas.

The mery tale of the Wolfe that wold haue had the Neckhering, through the wyles of the Foxe, that beguiled the Carrier, p. 77.

'Whylom there wound in a wildernes,' 36 stanzas; Moralitie, p. 84, 'This tale is mingled,' &c., 4 stanzas.

The excellent tale of the wyly Laurence Foxe that beguylde the covetous crafty Wolfe, with the shadow of the Moon, p. 86.

'In elder dayes as Esope can declare,' 28 stanzas; Moralitie, 'The Wolfe I liken to a wicked man,' 4 stanzas.

The mery tale of the Wolfe and the Weather, p. 94.

'Whylom there was, as Esope can report,' 19 stanzas; Moralitie, p. 99, 'Esope the poet, first ffather of this Fable,' 4 stanzas.

The wofull tale of the cruell Wolfe and the innocent Lambe, p. 101.

'A cruell Wolfe, right ravenous and fell,' 13 stanzas; Moralitie, p. 104, 'The poore people this Lambe may signifie,' &c., 10 stanzas.

The tale of the wofull ende of the Paddocke and the Mouse: shewing the mischiefe of desemblers, p. 107.

'Upon a time (as Esope coulde report),' 19 stanzas; Moralitie, p. 112, 'My brother if thou,' &c., 9 stanzas.

The last stanza of this Moralitie may be quoted:—

Adew, my friend; and if that any aske
Of these Fables, so shortly I conclude,
Say thou I left the rest unto the learneds taske
To make example and some similitude.
Now Christ for us that died on the rood,
Of soule and life, as thou art Saviour,
Grant us to passe into a blessed houre.

Finished in the Vale of Aylesburie the thirteenth of
August Anno Domini 1574.

The volume concludes with the Translator's Epilogue, 3 stanzas of 7 lines,—'Shewing (as Smith says in the Fable) that in a deformed creature God may and wil set forth his glorie.

Then love this worke, and reade it at your will;
I but eclipse his Tales of so great skill."

Richard Smith was the printer of Gascoigne's *Steel Glas*, 1576, on the title-page of which the ornament described above also appears.

- [2 (?). An edition of "Esopé's fables in miter" is named in the Stationers' Registers, under the date 6 Nov. 1598, as the property of William Wood. "This may have been the version anglicized from Henryson and first printed in 1577" (Hazlitt, *Bibliographical Collections*, ii.).]
- [3 (?). "In 1599 Robert Smyth, bookseller and printer in Edinburgh, obtained a grant of the privilege of printing 'The Fabillis of Esope,' with other books. After his death this privilege was transferred to Thomas Finlayson. In the inventory of stock of Robert Smith, librar (book-seller), who died May 1st, 1602, we find 743 copies of the 'Fabillis of Isope,' an edition now totally unknown" Laing, *u.s.*, p. 264).]

4. The | Morall Fables | of Esope the | Phrygian. | Compyled into eloquent and ornamentall | Meeter, by Robert Henrisoun | schoole-master of Dumfermeling | ¶ Dulcius arriident seria picta Jocis | ¶ Ut Naufragii levamen est portus: ita tranquillitas | animi, seu iocunditas est quasi vitæ portus | Newlie reuised and corrected | [*type ornament*] | Edinburgh: | Printed by Andro Hart, 1621.¹

The only known copy of this edition, an octavo of 96 pages, is preserved in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh. (See next entry.)

5. The | Moral Fables | of | Robert Henryson | reprinted from the edition of | Andrew Hart || [*Maitland Club block*] | Edinburgh, MDCCCXXXII.

This edition, a reprint of No. 4, was presented to the Maitland Club by Duncan Stewart. The Preface, which is unsigned, was written by David Irving, author of *The History of Scottish Poetry*, issued posthumously in 1861. The Preface may be compared with the tenth chapter of that volume and with Irving's article on Henryson in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 7th edit. (1836).

¹ Referred to as 'Hart' in the footnotes *infra*.

6. The | Poems and Fables | of | Robert Henryson, | now first collected. | With Notes, and a Memoir of his Life. | By David Laing. | Edinburgh: MDCCCLXV. | William Paterson, Princes Street. Sm. 8vo., 331 pages.

The *Fables* are printed on pp. 101-217.

7. Henrisone's Fabeln; in *Anglia*, ix., pp. 342-390, 453-492, edited by A. R. Diebler, author of a dissertation entitled *Henrisone's Fabeldichtungen* (Halle, 1885). The text in *Anglia* is a reprint of the Harleian.

SELECTIONS.

1. Allan Ramsay printed 'The Borrowstoun Mous and the Landwart Mous' and 'The Lyon and the Mous' (including the Prologue to the latter) in the first volume of *The Ever Green* (1724), pp. 144-155, 185-199. These are free renderings of the Bannatyne text, which Ramsay acknowledges in his Preface to have been his source. They are of more interest to the student of Ramsay than to the student of Henryson.
2. In Lord Hailes's volume of *Ancient Scottish Poems, published from the MS. of George Bannatyne, MDLXVIII* (1770), the following portions are printed: (a) The Dog, the Wolf, and the Scheip (pp. 138-146); (b) The Wolfe and the Lame (pp. 147-154); (c) *Moralitas* of The Mouss and the Paddok (pp. 155-158); (d) *Moralitas* of The Cok and the Pretious Stone (pp. 159-161); (e) *Moralitas* of The Borrowistoun Mous and the Up-on-land Mouss (pp. 162-163); (f) *Moralitas* of The Lyon and the Mouss (pp. 164-166). Notes on these passages occupy pp. 328-331.
3. In J. Sibbald's *Chronicle of Scottish Poetry*, vol. i. (1802), there is a short account (pp. 87-90) of Henryson, followed by these texts: (a) The Prologue to the Lion and the Mouse (pp. 90-93); (b) The Wolf and the Lame (pp. 94-99); (c) The Dog, Wolf, and Sheep (pp. 100-106); (d) The Twa Mice (pp. 107-114). The editor claims for the last that "it is here for the first time given correctly from the Bannatyne MS." (p. 107). (b) and (c) also are taken,

- as in Hailes's volume, from the Bannatyne MS., and are, on the whole, given more accurately.
4. In the Appendix to G. F. Nott's edition of the Poems of Sir Thomas Wyatt (1816), the Fable of the Two Mice is printed from the Harleian MS.
 5. In *Mediæval Scottish Poetry* (Glasgow, 1892), edited by George Eyre-Todd, the Prologue to the Tale of the Lion and the Mouse (described, in error, as the 'Prologue to the Moral Fables') and the Tale of the Two Mice are reprinted from Laing's edition, *u.s.*
 6. In the editor's *Specimens of Middle Scots* (1902) the Prologue and Tale of the Cock and Jewel are printed from the Makculloch MS. (pp. 1-7), and the Tale of the Paddock and the Mouse from the Bannatyne MS. (pp. 34-41). Notes on these extracts are printed on pp. 267-269, 277-280.

The texts have been transcribed and collated by Mr George Stevenson, M.A., who has, at every stage of the preparation of this volume, given invaluable aid. The editor, in offering his thanks for this assistance during a long task, desires to express his pleasure that the collaboration has been the means of securing Mr Stevenson as an independent contributor to the publications of the Society. The editor also desires to thank Mrs Christie-Miller of Britwell Court for her kindness in placing the unique copy of Charteris's edition at his disposal, and the librarians of the British Museum, the Advocates' Library, and the University of Edinburgh, for privileges readily granted.

Nov. 11, 1906.

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[The Twa Myss.— <i>Bann.</i>]	
[The tale of þe wplandis mouf and þe borrowstoun mouf.— <i>Asloan-Chalmers</i>]	
IV. The Taill of Schir Chantecleir and the Foxe	
[The Fox and the Cock.— <i>Bann.</i>]	
V. The Taill how this foirsaid Tod maid his confessioun to Freir Wolf Waitskaith.	
[The Fox and the Wolf.— <i>Bann.</i>]	
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THE TEXTS.

CHARTERIS (Britwell Court).	HARLEIAN (British Museum).	MACCULLOCH (Univ. of Edin.)	BANNNATYNE (Advocates' Lib.)	ASLOAN- CHALMERS (Univ. of Edin.)
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CHARTERIS AND HARLEIAN TEXTS

PROLOG.

THOCHE FENZEIT FABILLIS of auld poetrie
 Be nocht all groundit vpon treuth, 3it than
 Thair polite termis of sweit Rhetorie
 Richt plesand ar vnto the eir of man ;
 And als the caus that thay first began 5
 Wes to repreif the hail misleuing
 Of man, be figure of ane vther thing.

In lyke maner as throw the busteous eird,
 Swa it be laubourit with greit diligence,
 Springis the flouris and the corne abreird, 10
 Hailsum and gude to mannis sustenance,
 Sa dois spring ane Morale sweit sentence
 Out of the subtell dyte of Poetry,
 To gude purpois, quha culd it weill applie.

The Nuttis schell, thocht it be hard and teuch, 15
 Haldis the kirnell, and is delectabill.
 Sa lysis thair ane doctrine wyse aneuch,
 And full of frute, vnder ane feinzeit fabill.
 And Clerkis sayis, it is richt profitabill
 Amangis ernst to ming ane merie sport, 20
 To licht the spreit, and gar the tyme be schort.

Prolog.

Thocht feinzeit fabillis of ald poetrie

Be not all grunded vpon truth, 3it than
 Thair polite termes of sweit rethorie
 Richt plesand ar vnto the eir of man ;
 And als the caus that thay first began
 Wes to repreue the haill misleuing
 Of man, be figure of ane vther thing.

5

In lyke maner as throw the bustious eird,
 Swa it be laubourit with grit diligence,
 Springis the flouris and the corne abreird,
 Hailsum and gude to mannis sustenance,
 Swa dois spring ane morale sweit sentence
 Out of the subtell dyte of poetry,
 To gude purpois, quha culd it weill apply.

10

The nuttis schell, thocht [it] be hard and teuch,
 Haldis the kirknell, and is delectabill.
 Sa lvis thair ane doctrine wyse aneuch,
 And full of frute, vnder ane feinzeit fabill.
 And clerkis sayis, it is richt profitabill
 Amangis eirnist to ming ane mery sport,
 To licht the spreit, and gar the tyme be schort.

15

20

CHARTERIS]

Forther mair, ane Bow that is ay bent
 Worthis vnsmart and dullis on the string
 Sa gais the man that is ay diligent
 In earnestfull¹ thochtis, and in studying : 25
 With sad materis sum merines to ming
 Acordis weill, thus Esope said, I wis,
Dulcius arripient seria picta Iocis.

¶ Of this author, my Maisteris, with 3our leif,
 Submitting me in 3our correctioun, 30
 In Mother toung of Latyne I wald preif
 To mak ane mater of Translatioun ;
 Nocht of my self, for vane presumptioun,
 Bot be requeist and Precept of ane Lord,
 Of quhome the Name it neidis not record.² 35

In hamelie language and in termis rude
 Me neidis wryte, for quhy of Eloquence
 Nor Rethorike I neuer vnderstude.
 Thairfoir meiklie I pray 3our reuerence,
 Gif that 3e find it throw my negligence 40
 Be deminute, or 3it superfluous,
 Correct it at 3our willis gracious.

My Author in his Fabillis tellis 3ow,
 That brutall beistis spak, and vnderstude,
 In to guid purposis dispute, and maid argow, 45
 In Philosophie propone, and eik conclude ;
 Put in exempill, and in similitude,
 How mony men in operatioun
 Ar lyke to beistis in conditioun.

¹ Orig. 'ernest full.'² Orig. 'decord.'

[HARLEIAN

Forther mair, ane bow that is ay bent
 F. 2 b. Worthis vnsmart and dullis on the string :
 Sa dois the mynd that is ay diligent
 In eirnistfull¹ thoc[h]tis, and in studying : 25
 With sad materis sum merynes to myng
 Acordis weill, thus esope said, I wis,
Dulcius arduum serua picta Foris.

Of this authour, my maisteris, with 3our leif,
 Submitting me in 3our correctioun, 30
 In mother toung of Lating I wald preif
 To mak ane maner of translatioun ;
 Not of my self, for vane presumptioun,
 Bot be request and precept of ane lord,
 Of quhome the name it neidis nocht record. 35

In hamelie language and in termes rude
 Me neidis not, for quhy of eloquence
 Nor rethorik I neuer vnderstude.
 Thairfoir meiklie I pray 3our reuerence,
 Gif that 3e find it throw my negligence 40
 Be deminute, or 3it superfluous,
 Correct it at 3our willis gratiuous.

F. 3 a. My author in his fabillis tellis how
 That brut beistis spak, and vnderstude,
 In to guid purpos dispute, and argow, 45
 Ane sillogisme propone, and eik conclude ;
 Put in exempill, and in similitude,
 How mony men in operatioun
 Ar like to beistis in conditioun.

¹ MS. 'eirnist full.'

CHARTERIS]

Na maruell is ane man be lyke ane Beist, 50
 Quhilk lufis ay carnall and foull delyte ;
 That schame can not him renze nor arreist,
 Bot takis all the lust and appetyte,
 And that throw custum and daylie ryte.
 Syne in thair myndis sa fast is Radicate 55
 That thay in brutall beistis ar transformate.

¶ This Nobill Clerk Esope, as I haif tauld,
 In gray vestiment, and in facound purpurate,
 Be figure wrait his buik ; for he nocht wald
 Lak the wisdom of hie nor law estait. 60
 And to begyn, first of ane Cok he wrait,
 Seikand his meit, quhilk fand ane Iolie stone,
 Of quhome the Fabill 3e sall heir anone.

ANE COK, SUMTYME, with feddrame fresche and gay,
 Richt cant and Crous, albeit he was bot pure, 65
 Flew furth vpon ane dounghill sone be day ;
 To get his dennar set wes all his cure :
 Scraipand amang the as, be auenture
 He fand ane Iolie Iasp, richt precious,
 Wes castin furth in sweping of the hous. 70

As Damysellis wantoun and Insolent,
 That fane wald play, and on the streit be sene,
 To swoping of the hous thay tak na tent :
 Thay cair na thing swa that the flure be clene ;
 Iowellis ar tint, as oftymis hes bene sene, 75
 Upon the flure, and swopit furth anone—
 Peraduenture, sa wes the samin stone.

[HARLEIAN

Na mervell is ane man be like ane beist, 50
 Quhilk luifis ay carnall and foull delite ;
 That schame can not him reinze nor arreist,
 Bot takis all the lust and appetyte,
 And that throw custum, and dalye ryte.
 Syne in thair myndis sa fast is radicate 55
 That thay in brutall beistis ar transformate.

This nobill clerk esope, as I haif tald,
 In gay meter, as poete lawriate,
 Be figure wrait his buik ; for he not wald
 Lack the disdane of hie nor law estait. 60
 And to begin, first of ane cok he wrate,
 Seikand his meit, quhilk fand ane Ioly stone,
 Of quhome the fabill ze sall heir anone.

F. 3 b. The Taill of the Cok and the Iasp.

Ane Cok, sum tyme, with feddrum fresch & gay,
 Richt cant and crouß, albeit he was bot pure, 65
 Flew furth vpoun ane dung hill sone be day ;
 To get his dennar set was all his cure :
 Scaipand among the aß, be euenture
 He fand ane Ioly Iasp, richt precious,
 Was castin furth be sweeping of the houß. 70

F. 4 a. As damesellis wantoun and insolent,
 That fane wald play, and on the streit be sene,
 To sweeping of the houß thay tak na tent ;
 Thay cair na thing swa that the flure be clene ;
 Iowellis ar tint, as oftymes hes bene sene, 75
 Vpon the flure, and swopit furth anone—
 Peraduenture, sa was the samyn stone.

CHARTERIS]

Sa meruelland vpon the stane, quod he,
 'O gentill Iasp! O riche and Nobill thing!
 Thocht I the find, thow ganis not for me;
 Thow art ane Iowell for ane Lord, or king.
 Pietie it wer thow suld ly in this midding,
 And buryit be thus on this muke on mold,¹
 And thow so fair, and worth sa mekill gold.

80

¶ 'It is pietie I suld the find, for quhy
 Thy greit vertew, nor 3it thy cullour cleir,
 It may me nouthur extoll nor magnifie;
 And thow to me may mak bot lytill cheir.
 To greit Lordis thocht thow be leif and deir,
 I lufe fer better thing of les auail,
 As draf, or corne, to fill my tume Intraill.

85

90

'I had leuer haif scrapit heir with my naillis
 Amangis this mow, and luke my lyfis fude,
 As draf, or corne, small wormis, or snaillis,
 Or ony meit wald do my stomok gude,
 Than of Iaspis ane mekill multitude:
 And thow agane, vpon the samin wyis,
 For thyne auail may me as now despyis.

95

'Thow is na corne, and thairof haif I neid;
 Thy cullour dois bot confort to the sicht,
 And that is not aneuch my wame to feid;
 For wyfis sayis lukand werkis ar licht.
 I wald haif sum meit, get it gif I micht,
 For hountrie men may not leif on lukis:
 Had I dry breid, I compt not for na cukis.

100

105

¹ Cf. p. 226.

[HARLEIAN

Sa mervelland vpon this stane, quod he,
 ‘O gentill Iasp ! o riche and noble thing !
 Thocht I the find, thow ganis not for me ; 80
 Thow art ane Iowell for ane lord, or king.
 Pietie it war thow suld ly in this midding,
 Be buryit thus amang this muk on mold,¹
 And thow sa fair, and worth sa mekle gold.

‘It is pietie I suld the fynd, for quhy 85
 Thy gret vertue, nor 3it thy cullour cleir,
 It may me nouthur extoll nor magnify ;
 And thow to me may mak bot litill cheir.
 To gret lordis thocht thow be leif and deir,
 I luif fer better thing of les auail, 90
 As draf, or corne, to fill my tume Intrail.

F. 4 b. ‘I had leuer ga scrapit heir with my naillis
 Amangis this mow, and luik my lyfis fude,
 As draf, or corne, small wormes, or snaillis,
 Or ony meit wald do my stomok gude, 95
 Than of Iaspis ane mekle multitude :
 And thow agane, vpoun the samyn wyse,
 For les auail may me as now dispyis.

‘Thow hes na corne, and thairof I haif neid ;
 Thy cullour dois but confort to the sicht, 100
 And that is not enewch my wame to feid ;
 For wyfis sayis luikand workis ar licht.
 I wald haif sum meit, get it gif I mycht,
 For hungrie men may not leue on luikis :
 Had I dry breid, I compt not for na cuikis. 105

¹ Cf. p. 226.

CHARTERIS]

'Quhar suld thow mak thy habitatioun?
 Quhar suld thow dwell, bot in ane Royall Tour?
 Quhar suld thow sit, bot on ane Kingis Croun,
 Exaltit in worschip and in greit honour?
 Ryse, gentill Iasp, of all stanis the flour, 110
 Out of this midding, and pas quhair thow suld be;
 Thow ganis not for me, nor I for the.'

Leuand this Iowell law vpon the ground,
 To seik his meit this Cok his wayis went;
 Bot quhen, or how, or quhome be it wes found, 115
 As now I set to hald na Argument:
 Bot of the Inward sentence and Intent
 Of this, as myne Author dois write,
 I sall reheirs in rude and hamelie dite.

MORALITAS.¹

¶ This Iolie Iasp had properteis seuin: 120
 The first, of cullour it wes meruelous,
 Part lyke the fyre, and part like to the heuin:
 It makis ane man stark and victorious;
 Preseruis als fra cacis perrillous:
 Quha hes this stane sall haif gude hoip to speid, 125
 Or fyre nor watter him neidis not to dreid.

This gentill Iasp, richt different of hew,
 Betakinnis perfite prudence and cunning,
 Ornate with mony deidis of vertew,
 Mair excellent than ony eirthlie thing, 130
 Quhilk makis men in honour for to Ring,
 Happie, and stark to wyn the victorie
 Of all vycis and Spirituall enemie.

¹ In the original this heading introduces the next stanza.

[HARLEIAN

'Quhair suld thow mak thy habitatioun?
 Quhair suld thow duell, bot in ane royell tour?
 Quhair suld thow sit, bot on ane kingis croun,
 Exaltit in worschip and in gret honour?
 Ryse, gentill Iasp, of all stanis the flour, 110
 Out of this midding, and pas quhair thow suld be;
 Thow ganis not for me, nor I for the.'

F. 5 a. Leuand this Iowell law vpoun the ground,
 To seik his meit this cok his wayis went;
 Bot quhen, or how, or quhome be it was found, 115
 As now I set to hald na argument:
 Bot of the inwart sentence and intent
 Of this, as myne author dois wryte,
 I sall reheirs in rude and hamelie dyte.

Moralitas.¹

This Ioly Iasp had properteis sevin: 120
 The first, of cullour it was meruellous,
 Part lyke the fyre, and part like to the hevin:
 It makis ane man stark and victorious;
 Preseruis als fra cacis perrilous:
 Quha hes this stane sall haif gude hap to speid, 125
 Or fyre nor water him neidis not to dreid.

This gentill Iasp, richt different of hew,
 Betakynnis perfite prudence and cunning,
 Ornate with mony deidis of vertew,
 Mair excellent than ony eirthlie thing, 130
 F. 5 b. Quhilk makis men in honour for to ring,
 Happie, and stark to win the victorie
 Of all vicis and spirituale Enemie.

¹ In the MS. this heading introduces the next stanza.

CHARTERIS]

Quha may be hardie, riche, and gracious?
 Quha can eschew perrell and aventure? 135
 Quha can Gouverne in ane Realme or hous
 Without science? ouer all thing, I 3ow assure,
 It is riches that euer sall Indure,
 Quhilk Maith, nor moyst, nor vther rust can freit :
 To mannis Saule it is Eternall meit. 140

This Cok, desyrand mair the sempill corne
 Than ony Iasp, may till ane fule be peir,
 Quhilk at science makis bot ane moik and scorne,
 And na gude can ; als lytill will he leir ;
 His hart wammillis wyse argument to heir, 145
 As dois ane Sow, to quhome men for the nanis
 In hir draf troich wald saw precious stanis.

¶ Quha is enemie to science and cunning,
 Bot Ignorance that vnderstandis nocht?
 Quhilk is sa Nobill, sa precious, and sa ding, 150
 That it may not with eirdlie thing be bocht.
 Weill war that man ouer all vther, that mocht
 All his lyfe dayis in perfite studie wair
 To get science ; for him neidis na mair.

Bot now, allace, science is tint and hid : 155
 We seik it nocht, nor preis it for to find.
 Haif we riches, na better lyfe we bid,
 Of science thocht the Saull be bair and blind.
 Of this mater to speik it wer bot wind ;
 Thairfoir I ceis, and will na further say : 160
 Ga seik the iasp quha will, for thair it lay.

[HARLEIAN

Quha may be hardie, riche, and gracious?
 Quha can eschew perrell and euenture? 135
 Quha can gouerne ane realme, citie, or houß
 Without science? na man, I þow assure.
 It is riches that euer sall indure,
 Quhilk maith, nor moist, nor vther rust can screit¹:
 To mazzis saule it is Eternale meit. 140

This cok, desirand mair the sempill corne
 Than ony Iasp, vnto ane fule is peir,
 Quhilk at science makis bot ane mok and scorne,
 And na gude can; als litill will he leir;
 His hart wammillis wyse argument to heir, 145
 As dois ane sow, to quhome men for the nanis
 In hir draf troch wald saw precious stanjs.

F. 6 a. Quha is enemy to science and cunning,
 Bot ignorantis that vnderstandis nocht?
 Quhilk is sa noble, sa precious, and sa ding, 150
 That it may not with eirdlie thing be bocht.
 Weill war that man ouer all vther, that mocht
 All his lyfe dayis in perfite studie wair
 To get science; for him neidis na mair.

Bot now, [allace], this Iasp is tint and hid: 155
 We seik it nocht, nor preis it for to find.
 Haif we riches, na better lyfe we bid,
 Of science thocht the saule be bair and blind.
 Of this mater to speik it war but wind;
 Thairfoir I ceis, and will na ferther say: 160
 Ga seik the iasp quha will, for thair it lay.

Finis.

¹ So MS. See pp. 12, 228; also cf. p. 275.

CHARTERIS]

THE TAILL OF THE UPONLANDIS MOUS
AND THE BURGES MOUS.

ESOPE, myne Author, makis mentioun
Of twa Myis, and thay wer Sisteris deir,
Of quham *the* eldest dwelt in ane Borrouis toun,
The vther wynnit Uponland, weill neir, 165
Soliter, quhyle vnder busk, quhyle vnder breir,
Quhylis in the corne, and vther mennis skaith,
As outlawis dois and leuis on thair waith.

This rurall Mous in to the wynter tyde
Had hunger, cauld, and tholit greit distres. 170
The vther Mous that in the Burgh can byde
Wes Gild brother and maid ane fre Burges ;
Toll fre als, but custum mair or les,
And fredome had to ga quhair euer scho list,
Amang the cheis in Ark, and meill in kist. 175

Ane tyme quhen s[c]ho wes full and vnfute sair,
Scho tuik in mynde hir sister vponland,
And langit for to heir of hir weillfair,
To se quhat lyfe scho had vnder the wand :
Bairfute, allone, with pykestalf in hir hand, 180
As pure Pilgryme scho passit out of toun,
To seik hir sister baith our daill and doun.

Furth mony wilsum wayis can scho walk,
Throw mosse & muir, throw barkis, balk,¹ and breir,
Scho ranne with mony ane hiddeous quaik, 185
'Cum furth to me, my awin Sister deir ;
Cry peip anis !' With that the Mous cryit 'heir,'
And knew hir voce, as kinnisman will do,
Be verray kynd ; and furth scho come hir to.

¹ Orig. 'blak' ; Hart, 'balke.' See p. 15.

[HARLEIAN

F. 6 b. **The Taill of the vponlandis Mous
and the burges Mous.**

Esope, my author, makis mentioun
Of twa myis, and thay wer sisteris deir,
Of quhome the eldest duelt in ane borous toun,
The vther wynnit vponland, weill neir, 165
Soliter, quhile vnder busk, quhile vnder breir,
Quhilis in the corne, and vther meznis skaith,
As outlawis dois and leuis on thair waith.

This rurall mouß in to the winter tyde
Had hunger, cauld, and tholit gret distres. 170
The vther mous that in the burgh can byde
Was gild brother and maid ane fre burgesß ;
Toll fre als, but custum mair or les,
And fredome had to ga quhair euer scho list,
Amang the cheis in ark, and meill in kist. 175

Ane tyme quhen scho was full and vnfute sair,
Scho tuik in mynde hir sister vponland,
And langit for to heir of hir weilfair,
F. 7 a. To se quhat lyfe scho had vnder the wand :
Bairfute, allone, with pykestalf in hir hand, 180
As pure pilgryme scho passit out of toun,
To seik hir sister baith ouer daill and down.

Furth mony wilsum wayis can scho walk,
Throw moß and mure, throw bankis, [busk¹] and breir,
Scho ran cryand, quhill scho come to ane balk : 185
'Cum furth to me, my awin sister deir ;
Cry peip anis !' With that the mousse culd heir,
And knew hir voce, as kynnisman will do,
Be verray kynd ; and furth scho come hir to.

¹ Cf. pp. 284, 320 ; also p. 14.

CHARTERIS]

The hartlie ioy, God ! gif 3e had sene, 190
 Beis kith quhen that thir Sisteris met ;
 And greit kyndenes wes schawin thame betuene,
 For quhyllis thay leuch, and quhyllis for ioy thay gret,
 Quhyle kissit sweit, quhyllis in armis plet ;
 And thus thay fure, quhill soberit wes thair mind, 195
 Syne fute for fute vnto the Chalmer wend.

As I hard say, it was ane sober wane,
 Of fog and fairn full febillie wes maid,
 Ane sillie scheill vnder ane steidfast stane,
 Of quhilk the entres was not hie nor braid ; 200
 And in the samin thay went but mair abaid,
 Without fyre or candill birnand bricht,
 For commounlie sic pykeris lufes not licht.

Quhen thay wer lugit thus, thir selie Myse,
 The 3oungest sister into hir butterie 3eid, 205
 And brocht furth nuttis and candil in steid of spyce ;
 Gif this wes gude fair, I do it on thame besyde.
 The Burges Mouß promptit furth in pryde,
 And said, 'sister, is this 3our daylie fude ?' 209
 'Qyhy not,' quod scho, 'is not this meit rycht gude ?'

¶ 'Na, be my saull, I think it bot ane scorne.'
 'Madame,' quod scho, '3e be the mair to blame ;
 My mother said, sister, quhen we wer borne,
 That I and 3e lay baith within ane wame :
 I keip the rate and custume of my dame, 215
 And of my leuing in to pouertie,
 For landis haif we nane in propertie.'

[HARLEIAN

The hartlie Ioy, ¹ god ! gif ȝe had sene, 190
 Beis kyth quhen that thir sisteris met ;
 And gret kyndnes was schawin thame betuene,
 For quhillis thay leuch, and quhillis for ioy thay gret,
 Quhile kissit sweit, quhillis in armes plet ;
 And thus thay fure, quhill soberit was *ȝair* mude, 195
 Syne fute for fute vnto the chalmer ȝude.

F. 7 b. As I hard say, it was ane sober wane,
 Of fog and fairne ² full febilie was maid,
 Ane sillie scheill vnder ane steidfast stane,
 Of quhilk the entres was not hie nor braid ; 200
 And in the samyn thay went but mair abaid,
 Without fire or candill birnand bricht,
 For *commonlie* sic pykeris luifes nocht licht.

Quhen thay war lugeit thus, thir sillie myis,
 The ȝoungest sister in to hir butterie glide, 205
 And brocht furth nuttis and candill in steid of spyce ;
 Gif this was gude fair, I do it on thame beside.
 The burges mouß promptit furth in pride,
 And said, 'sister, is this ȝour daylie fude?' 209
 'Quhy not,' quod scho, 'is not this meit richt gude?'

'Na, be my saule, I think it bot ane scorne.'
 'Madame,' quod scho, 'ȝe be the mair to blame ;
 My mother said, sister, quhen we war borne,
 That I and ȝe lay baith within ane wame :
 I keip the rait and custome of my dame, 215
 And of my leving in to pouertie,
 For landis haif we nane in propertie.'

¹ See p. 284, l. 29, and p. 320, l. 29.² MS. *farine*.

CHARTERIS]

'My fair sister,' quod scho, 'haif me excusit,
 This rude dyet and I can not accord ;
 To tender meit my stomok is ay vsit, 220
 For quhyllis I fair als weill as ony Lord ;
 Thir widderit peis and nuttis, or thay be bord,
 Will brek my teith, & mak my wame full sklender,
 Quhilk wes befor vsit to meittis tender.'

'Weill, weill, sister,' quod the rurall Mous, 225
 'Gif it pleis 3ow, sic thingis as 3e se heir,
 Baith meit and drink, harberie and hous,
 Salbe 3our awin, will 3e remane all 3eir ;
 3e sall it haif with blyith and merie cheir,
 And that suld mak the maisses that ar rude, 230
 Amang freindis, richt tender and wonder gude.

'Quhat plesure is in the Feistis delicate,
 The quhilkis ar geuin with ane glowmand brow ?
 Ane gentill hart is better recreat
 With blyith curage, than seik to him ane kow : 235
 Ane Modicum is mair for till allow,
 Swa that gude will be keruer at the dais,
 Than thrawin will and mony spycit mais.'

¶ For all hir merie exhortatioun,
 This Burges Mous had lytill will to sing, 240
 Bot heuillie scho kest hir browis down,
 For all the daynteis that scho culd hir bring.
 3it at the last scho said, half in hething,
 'Sister, this victuall and 3our royall feist
 May weill suffice vnto ane rurall beist. 245

[HARLEIAN

F. 8 a. 'My fair sister,' quod scho, 'haif me excusit,
 This rude dyat and I can not accord ;
 To tender meit my stomok is ay vsit, 220
 For quhilis I fair als weill as ony lord ;
 Thir widderit peis and nuttis, or thay be bord,
 Will brek my teith, and mak my wame full sklender,
 Quhilk was befoir vsit to meitis tender.'

'Weill, weill, sister,' quod the rurale mouß, 225
 'Gif it pleis 3ow, sic thing as 3e se heir,
 Baith meit and drink, herberie and houß,
 Sall be 3our awin, will 3e remane all 3eir ;
 3e sall it haif with blith and mery cheir,
 And that sould mak the maissis that ar rude, 230
 Amang freindis, richt tender and wonder gude.

'Quhat plesure is in the feistis delicate,
 The quhilk ar gevin w^{it}h ane glowmand brow?
 Ane gentill hart is better recreate
 With blith courage, than seith to him ane kow : 235
 Ane modicum is mair for till allow,
 Sua that gude will be caruer at the dais,
 Than thrawin vult and mony spycit maiß.'

F. 8 b. For all hir mery exhortatioun,
 This burges mous had litill will to sing, 240
 Bot heuilie scho kest hir browis down,
 For all the daynteis that scho culd hir bring.
 3it at the last scho said, half in hething,
 'Sister, this victuall and 3our royell feist
 May weill suffice vnto ane rurall beist. 245

CHARTERIS]

'Lat be this hole, and cum into my place ;
 I sall to 3ow schaw be experience
 My gude fryday is better nor 3our Pace ;
 My dische weschingis is worth 3our haille expence ;
 I haif housis anew of greit defence ; 250
 Of Cat nor fall-trap I haif na dreid.'
 'I grant,' quod scho ; and on togidder thay 3eid.

In stubbill array throw gers and corne,
 And vnder buskis preuelie couth thay creip,
 The eldest wes the gyde and vent beforne, 255
 The 3ounger to hir wayis tuke gude keip.
 On nicht thay ran, and on the day can sleip ;
 Quhill in the morning, or the Lauerok sang,
 Thay fand the toun, and in blythlie couth gang.

Not fer fra thyne vnto ane worthie vane 260
 This burges brocht thame sone quhar thai suld be ;
 Without God speid thair herberie wes tane,
 In to ane spence with vittell greit plentie ;
 Baith Cheis and Butter vpone thair skelfis hie,
 And fleshe and fishe aneuch, of freshe and salt, 265
 And sekkis full of meill and eik of malt.

¶ Efter quhen thay disposit war to dyne,
 Withouttin grace thay wesche and went to meit,
 With all coursis that Cukis culd deuyne,
 Muttoun and beif strikin in tail3eis greit ; 270
 Ane Lordis fair thus couth thay counterfeit,
 Except ane thing, thay drank the watter cleir
 In steid of wyne, bot 3it thay maid gude cheir.

[HARLEIAN

'Let be this hole, and cum vnto my place ;
 I sall to 3ow schaw be experience
 My gude fryday is better nor 3our pace ;
 My dische likkingis is wirth 3our haill expence.
 I haif housis anew to grit defence ; 250
 Of cat nor fall-trap I háif na dreid.'
 'I grant,' quod scho ; and on togidder thay 3eid.

In stubbill array throw gres and corne,
 And vnder buskis preuilie culd thay creip,
 The eldest was the gide and went beforene, 255
 The 3ounger to hir wayis tuik gude keip.
 On nycht thay ran, and on the day can sleip ;
 Quhill in the morning, or the lauerok sang,
 Thay fand the toun, and in blithlie culd gang.

F. 9 a. Not fer fra thine vnto ane wirthie wane 260
 This burges brocht thame sone quhair thay suld be ;
 Without god speid thair herberie was tane,
 In to ane spence with victuell grit plentie ;
 Baith cheis and butter vpoun thair skelfis hie,
 And flesche and fische aneuch, baitz fresche & salt, 265
 And sekkis full of meill and eik of malt.

Efter quhen thay disposit war to dyne,
 Without grace thay wesche and went to meit,
 With all coursis that cuikis culd defyne,
 Muttoun and beif strukkin in tail3eis greit ; 270
 Ane lordis fair thus culd thay counterfeit,
 Except ane thing, thay drank the water cleir
 In steid of wyne, bot 3it thay maid gude cheir.

CHARTERIS]

With blyith vpcast and merie countenance,
 The eldest Sister sperit at hir gaist, 275
 Gif that scho be ressonne fand difference
 Betuix that chalmer and hir sarie nest.
 '3e, dame,' quod scho, 'how lang will this lest ?'
 'For euermair, I wait, and langer to.'
 'Gif it be swa, 3e ar at eis,' quod scho. 280

Till eik thair cheir ane subcharge furth scho brocht,
 Ane plait of grotis, and ane dische full of meill ;
 Thraf caikkis als I trow scho spairit nocht,
 Aboundantlie about hir for to deill ;
 And mane full fyne scho brocht in steid of geill, 285
 And ane quhyte candill out of ane coffer stall,
 In steid of spyce to gust thair mouth withall.

This maid thay merie quhil thay nicht na mair,
 And 'haill 3uill, haill !' cryit vpon hie.
 3it efter ioy oftymes cummis cair, 290
 And troubill efter greit prosperitie.
 Thus as thay sat in all thair iolitie,
 The spenser come with keyis in his hand,
 Oppinnit the dure, and thame at denner fand.

¶ Thay taryit not to wesche, as I suppose, 295
 Bot on to ga quha that nicht forrest win.
 The Burges had ane hoill, and in scho gois ;
 Hir sister had na hole to hyde hir in :
 To se that selie Mous it wes greit sin,
 So desolate and will of ane gude reid ; 300
 For verray dreid scho fell in swoun neir deid.

[HARLEIAN

With blith vpcast and merie countenance,
 The eldest sister sperit at hir gaist, 275
 Gif that scho be ressonne fand difference
 Betuix that chalmer and hir sarie nest.
 'Ȝe, dame,' quod scho, 'how lang will this lest?'
 'For euermair, I wait, and langer to.'
 'Gif it be swa, Ȝe ar at eis,' quod scho. 280

F. 9 b. Till eik thair cheir ane subcharge furth scho brocht,
 Ane plait of grottis, and ane dische full of meill;
 Thraf caikis als I trow scho spairit nocht,
 Aboundantlie about hir for to deill;
 And man fulle fyne¹ scho brocht in steid of geill, 285
 And ane quhite candill out of ane coffer stall,
 In steid of spyce to gust thair mouth wíth all.

This maid thay merie quhill thay mycht na mair,
 And 'haill Ȝuill, haill!' cryit vpone hie.
 Ȝit efter Ioy oftymes cumis cair, 290
 And troubill efter grit prosperitie.
 Thus as thay sat in all thair iolitie,
 The spensar come wíth keyis in his hand,
 Oppynnit the dur, and thame at denner fand.

Thay taryit not to wasche, as I suppois, 295
 Bot on to ga quha that mycht forrest win.
 The burges had ane hoill, and in scho gois;
 Hir sister had na hoill to hide hir in:
 To se that selie mouß it was grit sin,
 So desolate and will of ane gude reid; 300
 For verray dreid scho fell in swoun neir deid.

¹ MS. manfulle syne.

CHARTERIS]

Bot as God wald, it fell ane happy cace ;
 The Spenser had na laser for to byde,
 Nouthir to seik nor serche, to sker nor chace,
 Bot in he went, and left the dure vp wyde. 305
 The bald Burges his passing weill hes spyde ;
 Out of hir hole scho come and cryit on hie,
 'How fair 3e sister? cry peip, quhair euer 3e be!'

This rurall Mous lay flatling on the ground,
 And for the deith scho was full sair dredand, 310
 For till hir hart straik mony wofull stound,
 As in ane feuer scho trimbillit fute and hand ;
 And quhan hir sister in sic ply hir fand,
 For verray pietie scho began to greit,
 Syne confort hir with wordis humbill & sweit. 315

'Quhy ly 3e thus? ryse vp my sister deir,
 Cum to 3our meit, this perrell is ouerpast.'
 The vther answerit hir wth heuie cheir,
 'I may not eit, sa sair I am agast ;
 I had leuer thir fourtie dayis fast, 320
 With watter caill and to gnaw benis and peis,
 Than all 3our feist in this dreid and diseis.'

¶ With fair tretie 3it scho gart hir vpryse,
 And to the burde thay went and togidder sat ;
 And scantlie had thay drunken anis or twyse, 325
 Quhen in come Gib hunter, our Iolie Cat,
 And bad God speid : the Burges vp with that,
 And till the hole scho went as fyre on flint :
 Bawdronis the vther be the bak hes hint.

[HARLEIAN

F. 10 a. Bot as god wald, it fell ane happie cace ;
 The spensar had na laser for to bide,
 Nouthir to seik nor serche, to skar nor chace,
 Bot on he went, and left the dur vp wyde. 305
 The bald burges his passing weill hes spyde ;
 Out of hir hoill scho come and cryit on hie,
 'How fair 3e sister? cry peip, quhair euer 3e be!'

This rurall mouß lay flatling on the ground,
 And for the deith scho was full sair dreidand, 310
 For till hir hart straik mony wofull stound,
 As in ane feuer scho trimblit fute and hand ;
 And quhen hir sister in sic ply hir fand,
 For verray pietie scho began to greit,
 Syne confort hir with wordis hunny sweet. 315

'Quhy ly 3e thus? ryse vp my sister deir,
 Cum to 3our meit, this perrell is ouer past.'
 The vther answerit hir *wit* heuie cheir,
 'I may not eit, sa sair I am agast ;
 I had leuer thir fourtie dayis fast, 320
 With watter caill and to gnaw benis and peis,
 Than all 3our feist in this dreid and diseis.'

F. 10 b. With fair tretie 3it scho gart hir ryse,
 And to the burde thay went and to gidder sat ;
 And skantlie had thay drunkin anis or twyse, 325
 Quhen in come gib hunter, *our* Iolie cat,
 And bad god speid : the burges vp with that,
 And till hir hoill scho went as fyre on flint :
 Bawdronis the vther be the bak hes hint.

CHARTERIS]

Fra fute to fute he kest hir to and fra, 330
 Quhylis vp, quhylis doun, als cant as ony kid ;
 Quhylis wald he lat hir rin vnder the stra,
 Quhylis wald he wink, and play w^{it} hir buk heid.
 Thus to the selie Mous greit pane he did,
 Quhill at the last, throw fortune and gude hap, 335
 Betuix ane burde and the wall scho crap.

And vp in haist behind ane parralling
 Scho clam so hie, that Gilbert nicht not get hir,
 Syne be the cluke thair craftelie can hing,
 Till he wes gane, hir cheir wes all the better. 340
 Syne doun scho lap quhen thair wes nane to let hir,
 And to the Burges Mous loud can scho cry :
 ' Fairweill, sister, thy Feist heir I defy !

' Thy mangerie is mingit all with cair,
 Thy guse is gude, thy gansell sour as gall ; 345
 The subcharge of thy seruice is bot sair,
 Sa sall thow find efterwart na faill.
 I thank 3one courtyne and 3one perpall wall
 Of my defence now fra ane crewell beist.
 Almychtie God, keip me fra sic ane Feist ! 350

¶ ' Wer I into the kith that I come fra,
 For weill nor wo suld neuer cum agane.'
 With that scho tuke hir leif and furth can ga,
 Quhylis throw the corne, & quhylis throw the plane ;
 Quhen scho wes furth and fre, scho wes full fane, 355
 And merilie markit vnto the mure :
 I can not tell how weill thairefter scho fure.

[HARLEIAN

Fra fute to fute he kest hir to and fra, 330
 Quhilis vp, quhilis doun, als cant as ony kid ;
 Quhilis wald he lat hir rin vnder the stra,
 Quhilis wald he wink, and play w^{it}h hir bukheid.
 Thus to the selie mous grit pane he did,
 Quhill at the last, throw fortoun and gude hap, 335
 Betuix ane burde and the wall scho crap.

And vp in haist behind ane parraling
 Scho clam sa hie, that gilbert mycht not get hir,
 Syne be the cluke thair craftelie can hing,
 Till he was gane, hir cheir was all the better. 340
 Syne doun scho lap quhen thair was nane to lat hir,
 And to the burges mouß loud can scho cry :
 ‘Fairweill, sister, thy feist heir I defy !

F. 11 a. ‘Thy mangerie is mingit all w^{it}h cair,
 Thy guse is gude, thy gansell sour as gall ; 345
 The subcharge of thy seruice is bot sair,¹
 Sa sall thow find heirefterwart na fall.
 I thank 3one courtyne and 3one perpall wall
 Of my defence now fra 3one crewell beist.
 Almychtie god, keip me fra sic ane feist ! 350

‘Wer I in to the kith that I come fra,
 For weill nor wa suld I neuer cum agane.’
 With that scho tuik hir leue and furth can ga,
 Quhilis throw the corne, and quhilis throw the plane ;
 Quhen scho was furth and fre, scho was full fane, 355
 And merilie merkit vnto the mure :
 I can not tell how weill thairefter scho fure.

¹ MS. fair.

CHARTERIS]

¶ Bot I hard say scho passit to hir den,
 Als warme as woll,¹ suppose it wes not greit,
 Full beinly stuffit, baith but and ben, 360
 Of Beinis, and Nuttis, Peis, Ry, and Quheit ;
 Quhen euer scho list, scho had aneuch to eit,
 In quyet and eis, withoutin ony dreid :
 Bot to hir sisteris feist na mair scho 3eid.

MORALITAS.

FREINDIS, 3e may find, and 3e will tak heid, 365
 In to this fabill ane gude moralitie ;
 As fitchis myngit ar with nobill seid,
 Swa intermynglit is aduersitie
 And als troubill, and sum vexatioun,
 With eirthlie ioy, swa that na estait is fre, 370
 That ar not content of small possessioun,
 And namelie thay quhilk climmis vp maist hie.²

Blissit be sempill lyfe withoutin dreid ;
 Blissit be sober feist in quietie :
 Quha hes aneuch, of na mair hes he neid, 375
 Thocht it be lytill into quantitie.
 Greit aboundance and blind prosperitie
 Oftymes makis ane euill conclusioun ;
 The sweitest lyfe, thairfoir, in this cuntrie
 Is sickernes, with small possessioun. 380

¹ Orig. 'weill.'

² Cf. the order of ll. 369-372 with that of ll. 369-372 on p. 29.

[HARLEIAN

Bot I hard say scho passit to hir den,
 Als warme as woll, suppois it was not greit,
 Full benelie stuffit, baith but and ben, 360
 Of beinis, and nuttis, peiß, ry, and quhite ;
 Quhen euer scho list, scho had aneuch to eit,
 In quiet and eis, withouttin ony dreid :
 Bot to hir sisteris feist na mair scho 3eid.

F. 11 b.

Moralitas.

Jfreindis, 3e may find, and 3e will tak heid, 365
 In to this fabill ane gude moralitie ;
 As fytchis myngit ar with noble seid,
 Swa intermynglit is aduersitie
 With eirdlie Ioy ; swa that na estait is fre,
 Without trubill and sum vexatioun : 370
 As namelie thay quhilk clymmis vp maist hie,
 That ar not content with small possessioun.

Blissit be sempill lyfe withouttin dreid ;
 Blissit be sober feist in quietie :
 Quha hes aneuch, of na mair hes he neid, 375
 Thocht it be litill in to quantitie.
 Grit abundance and blind prosperitie
 Oftymes makis ane euill conclusioun ;
 The sweitest lyfe, thairfoir, in this cuntrie
 Is sickernes, with small possessioun. 380

O wantoun man ! that vsis for to feid
 Thy wambe, and makis it ane god to be,
 Luik to thy self ; I warne the weill, but dreid,
 The cat cummis, and to the mouß hes ee :
 Quhat vaillis than thy feist and ryaltie, 385

F. 12 a. With dreidfull hart and tribulatioun ?

Best thing in eird thairfoir, I say, for me,
 Is blythnes in hart, with small possessioun.

CHARTERIS]

¶ Thy awin fyre, my freind, sa it be bot ane gleid,
 It warmis weill, and is worth Gold to the ;
 And Solomon sayis, gif that thow will reid,
 ‘Vnder the heuin thair can not better be,
 Than ay be blyith and leif in honestie.’ 385
 Quhairfor I may conclude be this ressoun :
 Of eirthly ioy it beris maist degre,
 Blyithnes in hart, with small possessioun.

FINIS.

THE TAILL OF SCHIR CHANTECLEIR
AND THE FOXE.

THOCHT brutall beistis be Irrationall,¹
 That is to say, wantand discretioun, 390
 3it ilk ane in thair kynde naturall
 Hes mony diuers inclinatioun ;
 The Bair busteous, the Wolf, the wylde Lyoun,
 The Foxe semis craftie and cautelous,
 The Dog to bark on nicht and keip the hous. 395

Sa different thay ar in properteis,
 Unknawin to man, and sa infinite,
 In kynd hauand sa fell diuersiteis,
 My cunning is excludit for to dyte ;
 For thy as now I purpose for to wryte 400
 Ane cais I fand, quhilk fell this ather 3eir,
 Betuix ane Foxe and ane gentill Chanteclair.

¹ Orig. ‘Irrationabill.’

[HARLEIAN

Thy awin fire, my freind, sa it be bot ane gleid,
 It warmes weill, and is wirth gold to the ; 390
 And salomon sayis, gif that thow will reid,
 ‘Vnder the heuin thair can not better be,
 Than ay be blyith and leue in honestie.’
 Quhairfoir I may conclude be this ressoun :
 Of eirdlie Ioy it beris maist degre, 395
 Blithnes in hart, with small possessioun.

Finis.

F. 12 b.

The taill of schir chanteclair and the Foxe.

Thocht brutall beistis be Irrationall,
 That is to say, wantand discretioun,
 3it ilk ane in thair kynde naturale
 Hes mony diueris inclinatioun ; 400
 The bair boustious, the wolf, the wylde lyoun,
 The fox feinzeit, craftie and cawtelous,
 The dog to bark on nycht and keip the houß.

Sa different thay ar in properteis,
 Vnknawin to man, and sa infinite, 405
 In kynd havand sa fell deuersiteis,
 My cuzning is excludit for to dyte ;
 Forthy as now I purpois for to write
 Ane cais I fand, quhilk fell this ather 3eir,
 Betuix ane foxe and ane gentill chanteclair. 410

CHARTERIS]

¶ Ane Wedow duelt in till ane drop thay dayis,
 Quhilk wan hir fude of spinning on hir Rok ;
 And na mair had forsuth, as the fabill sayis, 405
 Except of hennis scho had ane lytill flok ;
 And thame to keip scho had ane iolie Cok,
 Richt curageous, that to this wedow ay
 Deuydit nicht, and crew befor the Day.

¶ Ane lytill fra this foirsaid Wedowis hous, 410
 Ane thornie schaw thair wes of greit defence,
 Quhairin ane Foxe, craftie and cautelous,
 Maid his repair and daylie residence :
 Quhilk to this Wedow did greit violence,
 In pyking of pultrie baith day and nicht, 415
 And na way be reuengit on him scho micht.

This wylie Tod, quhen that the Lark couth sing,
 Full sair hungrie vnto the Toun him drest,
 Quhair Chantecleir in to the gray dawing,
 Werie for nycht, wes flowin fra his nest. 420
 Lowrence this saw, and in his mynd he kest
 The Ieperdie, the wayis, and the wyle,
 Be quhat menis he micht this Cok begyle.

Dissimuland in to countenance and cheir,
 On kneis fell, and simuland this he said : 425
 ‘Gude morne, my maister, gentill Chantecleir !’
 With that the Cok start bakwart in ane braid.
 ‘Schir, be my Saule, 3e neid not be effrayit,
 Nor 3it for me to start, nor fle abak ;
 I come bot heir, seruice to 3ow to mak. 430

[HARLEIAN

Ane wedow duelt in to ane drop thay dayis,
 Quhilk wan hir fude of spinning on hir rok ;
 And na mair had forsuith, as the fabill sayis,
 Except of hennis scho had ane litill flok ;
 And thame to keip scho had ane iolie cok,

415

F. 13 a. Richt curagious, that to this wedow ay
 Deuidit nycht, and crew before the day.

Ane litill fra this foirsaid wedowis houß,
 Ane thornie schaw thair was of grit defence,
 Quhairin ane fox, craftie and cautelous,
 Maid his repair and daylie residence :
 Quhilk to the wedow did grit violence,
 In pyking of pultrie baith day and nycht,
 And na way be reuengit on him scho mycht.

420

This wylie tod, quhen that the lark couth sing,
 Full sair hungrie vnto the toun him drest,
 Quhair chanteclair in to the gray dawing,
 Werie for nycht, was flowin fra his nest.
 Lowrence this saw, and ¹ in his mynde he kest
 The Ieperdie, the wayis, and the wyle,
 Be quhat menis he mycht this cok begile.

425

430

Dissimuland in to countenance and cheir,
 On kneis fell, and simuland thus he said :
 ‘Gude morne, my maister, gentill chanteclair !’

F. 13 b. With that the cok start bakwart in ane braid.

435

‘Schir, be my saule, 3e neid not be affraid,
 Nor 3it for me to start, nor fle abak ;
 I come bot heir, seruice to 3ow to mak.

¹ Repeated twice in the MS.

CHARTERIS]

'Wald I not serue to 3ow, it war bot blame,
 As I haif done to 3our progenitouris :
 3our Father full oft fillit hes my wame,
 And send me meit fra midding to the muris ;
 And at his end I did my besie curis, 435
 To hald his heid, and gif him drinkis warme
 Syne at the last, the Sweit swelt in my arme.'

¶ 'Knew 3e my Father ?' quod the Cok, and leuch.
 '3ea, my fair Sone, I held vp his heid,
 Quhen that he deit vnder ane birkin beuch ; 440
 Syne said the Dirige, quhen that he wes deid.
 Betuix vs twa how suld thair be ane feid ?
 Quhame suld 3e traist bot me, 3our Seruitour,
 That to 3our Father did sa greit honour ?

'Quhen I behald 3our fedderis fair and gent, 445
 3our beik, 3our breist, 3our hekill, and 3our came,
 Schir, be my Saull, and the blissit Sacrament,
 My hart is warme ; me think, I am at hame :
 To mak 3ow blyith, I wald creip on my wame
 In froist, in snaw, in wedder wan and weit, 450
 And lay my Lyart loikkis vnder 3our feit.'

This fen3eit Foxe, fals and dissimulate,
 Maid to this Cok ane cauillatioun :
 '3e ar, me think, changit and degenerate
 Fra 3our Father of his conditioun ; 455
 Of craftie crawling he nicht beir the Croun,
 For he wald on his tais stand and craw ;
 This was na le ; I stude besyde and saw.'

[HARLEIAN

Wald I not serue to 3ow, it war bot blame,
 As I haif done to 3our progenitouris : 440
 3our father full oft fillit hes my wame,
 And send me meit fra midding to the muris ;
 And at his end I did my besie curis,
 To hald his heid, and gif him drinkis warme ;
 Syne at the last, the sweit swelt in my arme.' 445

'Knew 3e my father?' quod the cok, and leuch.
 '3e, my fair sone, I held vp his heid,
 Quhen that he deit vnder ane birkin beuch ;
 Syne said the dirigie, quhen that he was deid.
 Betuix ws twa how suld thair be ane feid? 450
 Quhome suld 3e traist bot me, 3our seruitour,
 That to 3our father did sa grit honour?

'Quhen I behald 3our fedderis fair & gent,
 3our beik, 3our breist, 3our hekill, and 3our kame,
 F. 14 a. Schir, be my saule, and the blissit sacrament, 455
 My hart is warme ; me think, I *am* at hame :
 To mak 3ow blyith, I wald creip on my wame
 In frost, in snaw, in wedder wan and weit,
 And lay my lyart loikkis vnder 3our feit.'

This feinzeit foxe, fals and dissimulate, 460
 Maid to this cok ane cauellatioun :
 '3e ar, me think, changit and degenerate
 Fra 3our father of his conditioun ;
 Of craftie crawing he mycht beir the croun,
 For he wald on his tais stande and craw ; 465
 This was na le ; I stuid beside and saw.'

CHARTERIS]

With that the Cok, vpon his tais hie,
 Kest vp his beik, and sang with all his micht. 460
 Quod Schir Lowrence, 'weill said, sa mot I the,
 3e ar 3our Fatheris Sone and air vpricht ;
 Bot of his cunning 3it 3e want ane slicht,
 For,' quod the Tod, 'he wald, and haif na dout,
 Baith wink and craw and turne him thryis about.' 465

The Cok, infect with wind and fals vanegloir,
 That mony puttis vnto confusioun,
 Traisting to win ane greit worschip thairfoir,
 Vnwarlie winkand, wawland vp and down,
 And syne to chant and craw he maid him boun. 470
 And suddandlie, be he had crawin ane note,
 The Foxe wes war and hint him be the throte.

¶ Syne to the woid but tarie with him hyit,
 Of that cryme haifand but lytill dout.
 With that Pertok, Sprutok, and Toppok cryit ; 475
 The Wedow hard,¹ and with ane cry come out ;
 Seand the cace, scho sichit and gaif ane schout :
 'How, murther, hay !' with ane hiddeous beir,
 'Allace, now lost is gentill Chanteclair !'

As scho wer woid, with mony 3ell and cry, 480
 Ryuand hir hair, vpon hir breist can beit,
 Syne paill of hew, half in ane extasie,
 Fell down for cair in swoning and in sweit.
 With that the selie hennis left thair meit,
 And, quhill this wyfe wes lyand thus in swoun, 485
 Fell in that cace in disputatioun.

¹ MS. 'cryit.' See pp. 37, 246.

[HARLEIAN

With that the cok, vpoun his tais he,
 Kest vp his beik, and sang with all his mycht.
 Quod schir lowrence, 'weill said, sa mot I the,
 3e ar 3our fatheris sone and air vpricht ; 470
 Bot of his cunning 3it 3e want ane slicht,
 For,' quod the tod, 'he-wald, and haif na dout,
 Baith wink and craw and turne him thryis about.'

F. 14 b. The cok, infect with wind and fals vane gloir,
 That mony puttis vnto confusioun, 475
 Traisting to win ane grit worschip thairfoir,
 Vnwarlie winkand, wawland vp and down,
 And syne to chant and craw he maid him boun.
 And suddantlie, be [he] had crawin ane note,
 The fox was wer and hint him be the throte. 480

Syne to the wode but tarie *witʰ* him hyit,
 Of that cryme haifand but litill dout.
 With [that] pertok, sprutok, and toppok cryit ;
 The wedow hard, and *witʰ* ane cry come out ;
 Seand the cace, scho sichit and gaif ane schout : 485
 'How, murthour, hay !' *witʰ* ane hiddious beir,
 'Allace, now lost is gentill chanteclair !'

As scho war wod, *witʰ* mony 3ell and cry,
 Rywand hir hair, vpoun hir breist can beit,
 Syne pale of hew, half in ane extasie, 490
 Fell down for cair in swoning and in sweet.
 With that the selie hennis left thair meit,
 And, quhill this wyfe wes liand this in swoun,
 Fell in that cace in disputatioun.

CHARTERIS]

'Allace,' quod Pertok, makand sair murning,
 With teiris greit attour hir cheikis fell,
 '3one wes our drowrie, and our dayis darling,
 Our Nichtingail, and als our Orlege bell, 490
 Oure walkryfe watche, vs for to warne and tell,
 Quhen that Aurora, with hir curcheis gray,
 Put vp hir heid betuix the nicht and day.

'Quha sall our Lemman be? quha sall vs leid?
 Quhen we ar sad, quha sall vnto ws sing? 495
 With his sweit Bill he wald brek vs the breid :
 In all this warld wes thair ane kynder thing?
 In paramouris he wald do vs plesing
 At his power, as nature did him geif;
 Now efter him, allace, how sall we leif?' 500

¶ Quod Sprutok than : 'Ceis sister of 3our sorrow ;
 3e be to mad for him ; sic murning mais :
 We sall fair weill ; I find, Sanct Iohne to borrow,
 The Prouerb sayis, " als gude lufe cummis as gais " :
 I will put on my haly dayis claithis, 505
 And mak me fresche agane this Iolie May,
 And chant this sang, " wes neuer Wedow sa gay ! "

'He wes angrie and held vs ay in aw,
 And woundit with the speir of Ielowsie ;
 Of chalmeglew, Pertok, full weill 3e know, 510
 Waistit he wes, of Nature cauld and dry.
 Sen he is gone, thairfoir, Sister, say I,
 Be blyith in baill, for that is best remeid :
 Let quik to quik, and deid ga to the deid.'

[HARLEIAN

F. 15 a. 'Allace,' quod pertok, makand sair¹ murning, 495
 With teiris grit attour hir cheikis fell,
 '3one wes oure drowrie, and oure dayis darling,
 Oure nichtingall, and als oure orlege bell,
 Oure walkryfe wache, ws for to warne and tell,
 Quhen that aurora, *wit* hir curcheis gray, 500
 Put vp hir heid betuix the nicht and day.

'Quha sall *our* lammen be? quha sall ws leid?
 Quhen we ar sad, quha sall vnto ws sing?
 With his sweit bill he wald brek ws the breid :
 In all this warld was thair ane kynder thing? 505
 In paramouris he wald do ws pleising
 At his powar, as nature did him geif;
 Now efter him, allace, how sall we leif?'

Quod sprutok than : 'ceis sister of 3our sorrow ;
 3e be to mad for him ; sic murning mais : 510
 We sall fair weill ; I find, sanct Iohnne to borrow,
 The prouerbe sayis, " als gude luif *cummis* as gais " :
 I will put on my haly dayis clais,
 And mak me fresche agane this Iolie may,
 And chant this sang, " was neuer wedow sa gay ! " 515

F. 15 b. 'He was angrie and held ws ay in aw,
 And woundit *wit* the speir of Ielowsie ;
 Of chalmer glew, full weill, pertok, 3e know,
 Waistit he was, of nature cauld and dry.
 Sen he is gone, thairfoir, sister, say I, 520
 Be blyith in baill, for that is best remeid :
 Let quik to quik, and deid ga to the deid.'

¹ MS. ? 'fair.'

CHARTERIS]

Than Pertok spak with fenzeit faith befor : 515
 'In lust but lufe he set all his delyte ¹ ;
 Sister, 3e wate, of sic as him ane scoir
 Wald not suffice to slaik our appetyte.
 I hecht ² be my hand, sen he is quyte,
 Within ane oulk, for schame and I durst speik, 520
 To get ane berne suld better claw my breik.'

Than Toppok lyke ane Curate spak full crous :
 '3one wes ane verray vengeance from the heuin ;
 He wes sa lous, and sa lecherous ;
 He had,' quod scho, 'kittokis ma than seuin ; 525
 Bot rychteous God, haldand the balandis euin,
 Smytis richt sair, thocht he be patient,
 For Adulterie that will thame not repent.

¶ 'Prydefull he wes, and ioyit of his sin,
 And comptit not for Goddis fauour nor feid, 530
 Bot traistit ay to rax and sa to rin,
 Quhill at the last his sinnis can him leid
 To schamefull end, and to 3one suddand Deid ;
 Thairfoir it is the verray hand of God
 That causit him be werryit with the Tod.' 535

Quhen this wes said, this Wedow fra hir swoun
 Start vp on fute, and on hir kennettis cryit,
 'How ! berk, ³ Berrie, Bausie Broun,
 Rype schaw, Rin weill, Curtes, Nuttieclyde,
 To gidder all but grunching furth 3e glyde ! 540
 Reskew my Nobill Cok, or he be slane,
 Or ellis to me se 3e cum neuer agane.'

¹ Cf. p. 247, l. 128.² See p. 247, l. 131.³ Cf. p. 248, l. 150.

[HARLEIAN

Than pertok spak with feinzeit faith befor :
 'In lust but lufe he set all his delite¹ ;
 Sister, 3e wate, of sic as him ane scoir 525
 Wald not suffice to slaik oure appetyte.
 I hecht² be my hand, sen he is quite,
 Within ane oulke, for schame and I durst speik,
 To get ane berne suld better claw *our* breik.'

Than tappok like ane curate spak full crous : 530
 '3one was ane verray vengeance frome the hevin ;
 He was sa louf, and sa lecherous ;
 He had,' quod scho, 'kittokis ma than sevine ;
 Bot rychtiouf god, haldand the ballandis evin,
 Smytis richt sair, thocht he be patient, 535
 For adulterie that will thame not repent.

F. 16 a. 'Prydfull he was, and Ioyit of his sin,
 And comptit not for goddis fauour nor feid,
 Bot traistit ay to rax and sa to rin,
 Quhill at the last his sinnis can him leid 540
 To schamefull end, and to 3one suddane deid ;
 Thairfoir it is the verray hand of god
 That causit him be werryit *wit* the tod.'

Quhen this was said, this wedow fra hir swoun
 Start vp on fute, and on hir kennettis cryde, 545
 'How ! bark,³ berrie, bawsie broun,
 Rypeschaw, rinweill, curtes, nuttieclyde,
 To gidder all but grunching furth 3e glide !
 Reskew my noble cok, or he be slane,
 Or ellis to me se 3e cum neuer agane.' 550

¹ Cf. p. 247, l. 128.² See p. 247, l. 131.³ Cf. p. 248, l. 150.

CHARTERIS]

With that, but baid, thay braidit ouer the bent ;
 As fyre of flint thay ouer the feildis flaw,
 Full wichtlie thay throw woid and watteris went, 545
 And ceissit not schir Lowrence quhill thay saw.
 Bot quhen he saw the kennetis cum on raw,
 Unto the Cok in mynd he said : ' God sen
 That I and thow wer fairlie in my den.'

Than said the Cok, with sum gude Spirit inspyrit, 550
 ' Do my counsall, and I sall warrand the ;
 Hungrie thow art, and for greit trauell tyrit,
 Richt faint of force, and may not ferther fle :
 Swyith turne agane, and say, that I and 3e
 Freindis ar maid and fellowis for ane 3eir ; 555
 Than will thay stint, I stand for it, and not steir.'

¶ This Tod, thocht he wes fals and friuolous,
 And had frawd¹ his querrell to defend,
 Desautit wes be menis richt meruelous ;
 For fals²et fail3eis ay at the latter end. 560
 He start about and cryit as he wes kend ;
 With that the Cok he braid out of² the beuch.
 Now Iuge 3e all quhairat Schir Lowrence leuch.

Begylit thus, the Tod vnder the tre
 On kneis fell, and said, ' gude Chantecleir, 565
 Cum doun agane, and I, but meit or fey,
 Salbe 3our man and seruand for ane 3eir.'
 ' Na, fals theif and reuar, stand not me neir ;
 My bludie hekill and my nek sa bla
 Hes partit freindschip for euer betwene vs twa. 570

¹ Orig. ' freindis.'² See p. 249, l. 174.

[HARLEIAN

With that, but baid, thay braidit ouer the bent ;
 As fyre of flint thay ouer the feildis flaw,
 Full ¹ wichtilie thay throw wod and watteris went,
 And ceissit not schir lawrence quhill thay saw.
 Bot quhen he saw the kennetis cum on raw, 555
 Vnto the cok he said in mynde : ‘ god sen
 That I and thow wer fairlie in my den.’

F. 16 b. Than said the cok, with sum gude spreit inspyrit,
 ‘ Do my counsale, and I sall warrand the ;
 Hungrie thow art, and for grit trauell tyrit, 560
 Richt faint of force, and may not ferther flie :
 Swyith turne agane, and say, that I and 3e
 Freindis ar maid and fellowis for ane 3eir ;
 Than will thay stint, I stand for it, and not steir.’

This tod, thocht he was fals and friuolous, 565
 And had frawdys his querell to defend,
 Dissaut was be menis richt meruelous ;
 For falset fail3eis ay at the letter end.
 He start about and cryit as he was kend ;
 With that the cok he braid out of ² the bewche. 570
 Now Iuge 3e all quhair at schir [lowrence] lewche.

Begylit thus, the tod vnder the tre
 On kneis fell, and said, ‘ gude chanteclair,
 Cum doun agane, and I, but meit or fe,
 Sall be 3our man and seruand for ane 3eir.’ 575
 ‘ Na, fals theif and reuar, stand not me neir ;
 My bludy hekill and my nek sa bla
 Hes *pairtit* freindschip for euer betwene ws twa.

¹ MS. ‘throw.’ See p. 42.² See p. 249, l. 174.

CHARTERIS]

'I wes vnwyse that winkit at thy will,
 Quhairthrow almaist I loissit had my heid.'
 'I wes mair fule,' quod he, 'to be sa still,¹
 Quhairthrow to put my play in to pleid.'
 'Fair on, fals theif, God keip me fra thy feid.' 575
 With that the Cok ouer the feildis tuke his flicht,
 And in at the Wedowis Luwer couth he licht.

MORALITAS.

NOW, worthie folk, suppose this be ane Fabill,
 And ouerheillit with typis figurall,
 3it may 3e find ane sentence richt agreabill, 58
 Under thir fenzeit termis textuall :
 To our purpose this Cok weill may we call
 Nyse proud men, woid and vanegloreous
 Of kin and blude, quhilk is presumptuous.

¶ Fy! puft vp pryde, thow is full poysonabill ; 585
 Quha fauoris the on force man haif ane fall.
 Thy strenth is nocht, thy stule standis vnstabill ;
 Tak witnes of the Feyndis Infernall,
 Quhilk houndit down wes fra that heuinlie hall
 To Hellis hole, and to that hiddeous hous, 590
 Becaus in pryde thay wer presumptuous.

This fenzeit Foxe may weill be figurate
 To flatteraris *with* ² plesand wordis quhyte,
 With fals mening and mynd maist toxicate,
 To leif and le that settis thair haill delyte. 595
 All worthie folk at sic suld haif despyte ;
 For quhair is thair mair perrillous pestilence
 Nor ³ gif to learis haistelie credence?

¹ See p. 249, l. 185.² Orig. 'richt.'³ See p. 250.

[HARLEIAN

F. 17 a. 'I was vnwyse that winkit at thy will,
 Quhairthrow almaist I loissit had my heid.' 580
 'I was mair fule,' quod he, 'to be sa still,¹
 Quhairthrow to put my pray in to pleid.'
 'Fair on, fals theif, god keip me fra thy feid.'
 With that the cok ouer the feildis tuke his flicht,
 And in at the wedowis lewer couth he lycht, 585

Moralitas.

Now, worthie folk, suppois this be ane fabill,
 And ouerheillit with typis figurall,
 3it may 3e find ane sentence richt agreeable,
 Vnder thair feinzeit termes textuale :
 To oure purpois this cok weill may we call 590
 Nyse proud men, wod and vane glorious
 Of kin and blude, quhilk ar presumptuous.

This feinzeit fox may weilbe figure
 To flatteraris with plesand wordis quhite,
 With fals menizg and mynd maist toxicate 595
 To loif and le that settis thair haill delite.

F. 17 b. All worthie folk at sic sould haif dispite ;
 For quhair is thair mair perrelous pestilence
 Nor² gif to learis haistelie credence ?

¹ See p. 249, l. 185.² See p. 250.

CHARTERIS]

The ¹ wickit mynd and Adulatioun,
 Of sucker sweit haifand the similitude, 600
 Bitter as gall, and full of poysoun,
 To taist ² it is, quha cleirlye vnderstude.
 For thy, as now schortlie to conclude,
 Thir twa sinnis, flatterie and vaneglore,
 Ar mannis enemeis ; gude folk, fle thame thairfoir ! 605

FINIS.

¶ THE TAILL HOW THIS FOIRSAID TOD
 MAID HIS CONFESSION TO FREIR
 WOLF WAITSKAITH.

LEIF we this Wedow glaid, I 3ow assure,
 Of Chanteclair mair blyth than I can tell,
 And speik we of the subtell auenture
 And destenie that to this Foxe befell,
 Quhilk durst na mair with waiting Intermell, 610
 Als lang as leme or licht wes of the day,
 Bot, bydand nicht, full still lurkand he lay,

¶ Quhill that ³ the Goddes of the flude
 Phebus had callit to the harberie,
 And Hesperous put up his cluddie heid, 615
 Schawand his lustie wisage in the sky.
 Than Lowrence luikit vp, quhair he couth ly,
 And kest his hand vpon his Ee on hicht,
 Merie and glaid that cummit wes the nicht.

¹ Orig. 'Hie.'² Orig. 'traist.'³ See p. 251, l. 8.

[HARLEIAN

The wickit mynd and adullatioun, 600
 Of sucker sweit haifand the similitude,
 Bitter as gall, and full of poyoun,
 To taist it is, quha cleirlye vnderstude.
 For thy, as now schortlie to conclude,
 Thir twa sinnis, flatterie and vane gloir, 605
 Ar venomous ; gude folk, flie thame thairfoir !

Finis.

F. 18 a. The taill how this foirsaid Tod maid
 his confessioun to freir wolf wait=
 skaith.

Leif we this wedow glaid, I 3ow assure,
 Of chanteclair mair blyth than I can tell,
 And speik we of the subtell auenture
 And destenie that to this foxe befell, 610
 Quhilk durst na mair with wayting intermell,
 Als lang as leme or licht was of the day,
 Bot, bydand nicht, full still lurkand he lay,

Quhill that ¹ the goddes of the flude
 Phebus had callit to the harberie, 615
 And hesperous put up his cluddie hude,
 Schawand his lustie visage in the sky.
 Than lawrence luikit up, quhair he culd ly,
 And kest his hand upoun his Ee on hicht,
 Merie and glaid that cummit wes the nycht. 620

¹ See p. 251, l. 8.

CHARTERIS]

Out of the wod vnto ane hill he went, 620
 Quhair he micht se the twinkling sternis cleir,
 And all the Planetis of the firmament,
 Thair cours, and eik thair mouing in the Spheir,
 Sum Retrograde, and sum Stationer,
 And of the 3odiak, in quhat degre 625
 Thay wer ilk ane, as Lowrence leirnit me.

Than Saturne auld was enterit in Capricorne,
 And Iuppiter mouit in Sagittarie,
 And Mars vp in the Rammis heid wes borne,
 And Phebus in the Lyoun furth can carie ; 630
 Venus the Crab, the Mone wes in Aquarie ;
 Mercurius, the God of Eloquence,
 Into the Uirgyn maid his residence.

Bot Astrolab, Quadrant, and Almanak,
 Teichit of nature be Instructioun, 635
 The mouing of the heuin this Tod can tak,
 Quhat influence and Constellatioun
 Wes like to fall vpon the irth adoun ;
 And to him self he said, withouttin mair,
 ' Weill worth my Father, that send me to the lair. 640

' My destenie and eik my weird I ken ¹ ;
 My auentour is cleirlie to me kend ;
 With mischeif myngit is my mortall Ene ² ;
 My misleuing the soner bot gif I mend :
 It is reward of sin ane schamefull end. 645
 Thairfoir I will ga seik sum Confessour,
 And schryif me clene of my sinnis to this hour.

¹ See p. 252.² See pp. 49, 252.

[HARLEIAN

Out of the wod in to ane hill he went,
 Quhair he micht se the twinkling sterris cleir,
 F. 18 b. And all the planeitis of the firmament,
 Thair cours, and eik thair moving in the spheir,
 Sum retrograde, and sum stationeir, 625
 And of the zodiake, in quhat degre
 Thay wer ilkane, as lowrence leirnit me.

Than saturne auld was enterit in capricorne,
 And Iuppiter movit in sagittarie,
 And mars up in the ramms heid was borne, 630
 And phebus in the lyoun furth can carie ;
 Venus the crab, the mone was in aquarie ;
 Mercurius, the god of eloquence,
 In to the virgyne maid his residence.

Bot astrolab, quadrant, and almanak, 635
 Teichit of nature be instructioun,
 The moving of the heuin this [tod] can tak,
 Quhat influence and constellatioun
 Was like to fall vpoun the irth adoun ;
 And to him self he said, withouttin mair, 640
 'Weill worth my father, that send me to the lair.

F. 19 a. 'My destenie and eik my weird I ken¹ ;
 My aventure is cleirlye to me kend ;
 With mischeif myngit is my mortale men² ;
 My misleuing the soner bot gif I mend : 645
 It is rewaird of sin ane schamefull end.
 Thairfoir I will ga seik sum confessour,
 And schryf me clene of my synnis to this hour.

¹ See p. 252.² See pp. 48, 252.

CHARTERIS]

'Allace,' quod he, 'richt waryit ar we theifis;
 Our lyifis set ilk nicht in auenture;
 Our cursit craft full mony man mischeuis; 650
 For euer we steill, and euer ar lyke pure:
 In dreid and schame our dayis we Indure;
 Syne widdinek and Crakraip callit als,
 And till our hyre hangit vp be the hals.'

Accusand thus his cankerit conscience, 655
 In to ane Craig he kest about his Ee;
 So saw he cummand, ane lytill than from [t]hence,
 Ane worthie Doctour in diuinitie,
 Freir Wolf Waitskaith, in science wonder sle,
 To preiche and pray wes new cummit fra the Cloister, 660
 With Beidis in hand, sayand his Pater noster.

Seand this Uolf, this wylie tratour Tod
 On kneis fell, *wit~~h~~* hude in to his nek:
 'Welcome, my Goistlie Father vnder God,'
 Quod he, with mony binge and mony bek. 665
 'Ha,' quod the wolf, 'Schir Tod, for quhat effek
 Mak 3e sic feir? ryse vp, put on 3our hude.'
 'Father,' quod he, 'I haif greit cause to dude.

'3e ar Mirroure, Lanterne, and sicker way,
 Suld gyde sic sempill folk as me to grace; 670
 3our bair feit, and 3our Russet Cowll of gray,
 3our lene cheik, 3our pail pieteous face,
 Schawis to me 3our perfite halines;
 For weill wer him, that anis in his lyue
 Had hap to 3ow his sinnis for to schryue.' 675

[HARLEIAN

'Allace,' quod he, 'richt waryit ar we theuis ;
 Our lyfis set ilk nycht in auenture ; 650
 Our cursit craft full mony man mischeuis ;
 For euer we steill, and euer ar like pure :
 In dreid and schame our dayis we indure ;
 Syne widdienek and crakraip callit als,
 And till oure hire hangit vp be the hals.' 655

Accusand this his cankerit conscience,
 In to ane craig he kest about his Ee ;
 Sa saw he cummand, ane litill than frome thence,
 Ane wirthie doctour of diuinitie,
 Freir wolf waitskaith, in science wonder slie, 660
 To preich and pray wes new cummit fra the closter,
 With beidis in hand, sayand his pater noster.

F. 19 b. Seand this wolf, this wylie tratour tod
 On kneis fell, w^{it} hude in to his nek :
 'Welcome, my father, gostliet vnder god,' 665
 Quod he, with mony bing and mony bek.
 'Ha,' quod the wolf, 'schir tod, for quhat effek
 Mak 3e sic feir? Ryse vp, put on 3our hude.'
 'Father,' quod he, 'I haif grit caus to dude.

'3e ar mirrour, lanterne, and sicker way, 670
 Suld gide sic sempill folk as me to grace ;
 3our bairfeit, and 3our russat coule of gray,
 3our lene cheik, 3our pail pietious face,
 Schawis to me 3our *per*fite halienes ;
 For weill war him, that anis in his lyfe 675
 Had hap to 3ow his sinnis for to schriue.'

CHARTERIS]

¶ ‘Na, selie Lowrence,’ quod the Uolf, and leuch :
 ‘It plesis me that ȝe ar penitent.’
 ‘Of reif and stouth, schir, I can tell aneuch,
 That causis me full sair for to repent ;
 Bot, Father, byde still heir vpon the bent, 680
 I ȝow beseik, and heir me to declair
 My conscience that prikkis me sa sair.’

‘Weill,’ quod the wolf, ‘sit down vpon thy kne.’
 And he doun bair heid sat full humillie,
 And syne began with Benedicite. 685
 Quhen I this saw, I drew ane lytill by,
 For it effeiris nouthir to heir nor spy,
 Nor to reueill thing said vnder that seill :
 Unto the Tod this Gait the Wolf couth tell.

‘Art thou contrite and sorie in thy Spreit 690
 For thy Trespas?’ ‘Na, Schir, I can not doid :
 Me think that hennis ar sa honie sweit,
 And Lambis flesche that new ar lettin bluid ;
 For to repent my mynd can not concluid,
 Bot of this thing, that I haif slane sa few.’ 695
 ‘Weill,’ quod the wolf, ‘in faith, thow art ane schrew.

‘Sen thow Can not forthink thy wickitnes,
 Will thow forbeir in tyme to cum, and mend?’
 ‘And I forbeir, how sall I leif, allace,
 Haifand nane vther craft me to defend? 700
 Neid causis me to steill quhair euer I wend.
 I eschame to thig, I can not wirk, ȝe wait,
 ȝit wald I fane pretend to gentill stait.’

[HARLEIAN

'Na, selie lawrence,' quod the wolf, and leuch :
 'It plesis me that 3e ar penitent.'
 'Of reif and stouth, schir, I can tell aneuch,
 That causis me full sair for to repent ; 680
 Bot, father, byde still heir vpoun the bent,
 I 3ow beseik, and heir me to declair
 My conscience that prikkis me sa sair.'

F. 20 a. 'Weill,' quod the wolf, 'sit doun on thy kne.'
 And he doun bairheid sat full humilly, 685
 And syne began with benedicitie.
 Quhen I this saw, I drew a litill by,
 For it effeiris nouthir to heir nor spy,
 Nor to reuele thing said vnder that seill :
 Vnto the tod this gait the wolf couth kneill.¹ 690

'Art thou contreit and sorie in thy spreit
 For thy traspas?' 'Na, schir, I can not dude :
 Me think that hennis ar sa honie sweit,
 And lambes flesche that new ar lattin blude ;
 For to repent my mynde can not conclude, 695
 Bot of this thing, that I haif slane sa few.'
 'Weill,' quod the wolf, 'in faith, thow art ane schrew.

'Sen thow can not forthink thy wickitnes,
 Will thow forbeir in tyme to cum, and mend?'
 'And I forbeir, how sall I leif allace, 700
 Haifand na vther craft me to defend?
 Neid causis me to steill quhair euer I wend.
 I eschame to thig, I can not wirk, 3e wait,
 3it wald I fane pretend to gentill stait.'

¹ So MS. Cf. pp. 52, 254.

CHARTERIS]

¶ 'Weill,' quod the Wolf, 'thow wantis pointis twa,
Belangand to perfyte Confessioun. 705

To the thrid part of penitence let vs ga :

Will thow tak pane for thy transgressioun ?'

'Na, Schir, considder my Complexioun,

Selie and waik, and of my Nature tender,

Lo, will 3e se, I am baith lene and sklender. 710

'3it, neuertheles, I wald, swa it wer licht,

Schort, and not greuand to my tendernes,

Tak part of pane, fulfill it gif I micht,

To set my selie Saull in way of grace.'

'Thow sall,' quod he, 'forbeir flesche vntill Pasche, 715

To tame this Corps, that cursit Carioun ;

And heir I reik the full Remissioun.'

'I grant thairto, swa 3e will gif me leif

To eit puddingis, or laip ane lytill blude,

Or heid, or feit, or paynchis let me preif, 720

In cace I falt of flesche in to my fude.'

'For greit mister I gif the leif to dude

Twyse in the oulk, for neid may haif na Law.'

'God 3eild 3ow, Schir, for that Text weill I knaw.'

Quhen this wes said, the Wolf his wayis went. 725

The Foxe on fute he fuir vnto the flude—

To fang him fische haillelie wes his intent ;

Bot quhen he saw the watter and ¹ wallis wod,

Astonist all still in to ane stair he stude,

And said : 'better that I had biddin at hame, 730

Nor bene ane Fischar in the Deuillis Name.

¹ Cf. p. 255, l. 123.

[HARLEIAN

F. 20 b. 'Weill,' quod the wolf, 'thow wantis pointis twa, 705
Belangand to perfite confessioun.

To the thrid pairt of penitence let ws ga :

Will thow tak pane for thy transgressioun?'

'Na, schir, considder my complexioun,

Selie and waik, and of my nature tender, 710

Lo, will 3e se, I am baith lene and sklender.

'3it, neuertheles, I wald, sa it war licht,

Schort, and not greuand to my tendernes,

Tak pairt of pane, fulfill it¹ gif I mycht,

To set my selie saule in way of grace.' 715

'Thow sall,' quod he, 'forbeir flesche vntill pace,

To tame this corps, that cursit carioun ;

And heir I reik the full remissioun.'

'I grant thairto, swa 3e will gif me leif

To eit puddingis, or laip ane litill blude, 720

Or heid, or feit, or panchis let me preif,

In cace na flesche vnto my fude I fall.'

'I gif the leif to gust thy mouth with all

Twyis in the oulk, for neid may haif na law.'

'God 3eild 3ow, schir, for that text weill I knaw.' 725

F. 21 a. Quhen this wes said, the wolf his wayis went.

The foxe on fute he fuir vnto the flude—

To fang him fische haillelie wes his intent ;

Bot quhen he saw the watter and² wallis woude,

Astonist all still in to ane stair he stude, 730

And said : 'better that I had biddin at hame,

Nor bene ane fischar in the deuillis name.

¹ MS. fulfillit.

² Cf. p. 255, l. 123.

CHARTERIS]

¶ ‘Now man I scaip my meit out of the sand,
 And I haif nouthor boittis nor ȝit Net.’
 As he wes thus for falt of meit murnand,
 Lukand about his leuing for to get, 735
 Under ane tre he saw ane trip of Gait;
 Than wes he blyith, and in ane heuch him hid,
 And fra the Gait he stall ane lytill Kid.

¶ Syne ouer the heuch vnto the see he hyis,
 And tuke the Kid be the hornis twane, 740
 And in the watter outhor twyis or thryis
 He dowkit him, and till him can he sayne:
 ‘Ga doun Schir Kid, cum vp Schir Salmond agane!’
 Quhill he wes deid; syne to the land him dreuch,
 And of that new maid Salmond eit anewch. 745

Thus fynelie fillit with ȝoung tender meit,
 Unto ane derne for dreid he him adressit,
 Under ane busk, quhair that the sone can beir,
 To beik his breist and bellie he thocht best;
 And rekleslie he said, quhair he did rest, 750
 Straikand his wame aganis the sonis heit,
 ‘Upon this wame set wer ane bolt full meit.’

Quhen this wes said, the keipar of the Gait,
 Cairfull in hart his kid wes stollin away,
 On euerilk syde full warlie couth he wait, 755
 Quhill at the last he saw quhair Lowrence lay;
 Ane Bow he bent, ane flane with fedderis gray
 He haillit to the heid, and, or he steird,
 The Foxe he prikkit fast vnto the eird.

[HARLEIAN

'Now mon I scaip my meit out of the sand,
 And I haif nather boittis, net, nor¹ bait.'
 As he was thus for falt of meit murnand, 735
 Luikand about his leuing for to lait,
 Vnder ane tre he saw ane trip of gait;
 Than wes he blithe, and in ane heuch him hid,
 And fra the gait he stall ane litill kid.

Syne ouer the heuch vnto the see he hyis, 740
 And tuik the kid be the hornis twane,
 And in the watter outhir twyis or thryis
 He doukit him, and till him can he sayne :
 'Ga doun schir kid, cum vp schir salmond agane !'
 Quhill he wes deid; syne to the land him drewch, 745
 And of that new maid salmond eit enewch.

F. 21 b. Thus fynelie fillit with 3oung tender meit,
 Vnto ane derne for dreid he him addrest,
 Vnder ane busk, quhair that the sone can beit,
 To beik his breist and bellie he thocht best; 750
 And rekleslie he said, quhair he did rest,
 Straikand his wame aganis the sonis heit,
 'Vpoun this wame set war ane bolt full meit.'

Quhen this was said, the keipare of the gait,
 Cairfull in hart his kid wes stollen away, 755
 On euerie side full warlie couth he wait,
 Quhill at the last he saw quhair lawrence lay;
 Ane bow he bent, ane flane with fedderis gray
 He haillit to the heid, and, or he steird,
 The fox he prikkit fast vnto the eird. 760

¹ MS. 'boittis nor net bait.' Cf. p. 255.

CHARTERIS]

¶ 'Now,' quod the Foxe, 'allace and wallaway ! 760
 Gorrit I am and may na farther gang¹ ;
 Me think na man may speik ane word in play,
 Bot now on dayis in ernist it is tane.'
 He harlit him, and out he drew his flane ;
 And for his kid, and vther violence, 765
 He tuik his skyn, and maid ane recompence.

MORALITAS.

THIS suddand deith and vnprouysit end
 Of this fals Tod, without prouisioun,
 Exempill is exhortand folk to amend,
 For dreid of sic ane lyke confusioun ; 770
 For mony now hes gude professioun,
 3it not repentis, nor for thair sinnis greit,
 Because thay think thair lustie Lyfe sa sweit.

Sum bene also throw consuetude and ryte
 Uincust with carnall sensualitie ; 775
 Suppose thay be as for the tyme contreyte,
 Can not forbeir, nor fra thair sinnis fle ;
 Use drawis Nature swa in propertie
 Of beist and man, that neidlingis thay man do,
 As thay of lang tyme hes bene hantit to. 780

Be war, gude folk, and feir this suddane schoit,
 Quhilk smytis sair withouttin resistance ;
 Attend wyislie, and in 3our hartis be noit,
 Aganis deith may na man mak defence ;
 Ceis of 3our sin, Remord 3our conscience, 785
 Obey vnto 3our God, and 3e sall wend,
 Efter 3our deith, to blis withouttin end.

FINIS.

¹ Cf. p. 256.

[HARLEIAN

'Now,' quod the foxe, 'allace and wallaway !
 Gorrit I am and may na ferther gang¹;
 Me think na man may speik ane worde in play,
 Bot now on dayis in eirnist it is tane.'
 He harlit him, and out he drew his flane ; 765
 And for his kid, and vther violence,
 He tuik his skin, and maid ane recompence.

F. 22 a.

Moralitas.

This suddane deith and vnprouisit end
 Of this fals tod, without prouisioun,
 Exempill is exhortand folk to mend, 770
 For dreid of sic ane like confusioun ;
 For mony now hes gude professioun,
 3it not repentis, nor for thair synnis greit,
 Becauß thay think thair lustie lyfe sa sweit.

Sum bene also throw consuetude and ryte 775
 Vincust be carnale sensualitie ;
 Suppois thay be as for the tyme contreit,
 Can not forbeir, nor fra thair sinnis fle ;
 Vse drawis nature sa in propertie
 Of beist and man, that neidlingis thay mon do, 780
 As thay of lang tyme hes bene hantit to.

Bewar, gude folk, and fle this suddane schot,
 Quhilk smytis sair withoutin resistance ;
 Attend wyselie, and in 3our hartis be note,
 Aganis deith may na man mak defence ; 785

F. 22 b. Ceis of 3our sin, remord 3our conscience,
 Obay vnto 3our god, and 3e sall wend,
 Efter 3our deith, to blis withoutin end.

Finis.¹ Cf. p. 256.

CHARTERIS]

¶ THE TAILL OF THE SONE AND AIR OF
THE FOIRSAID FOXE, CALLIT FATHER-
WER: ALSWA THE PARLIAMENT OF
FOURFUTTIT BEISTIS HALDIN BE THE
LYOUN.

THIS foirsaid Foxe, that deit for his misdeid,
Had not ane barne wes gottin richteouslie,
Till airschip be Law that nicht succeid, 790
Except ane Sone, quhilk in Adulterie
He gottin had in purches priuelie,
And till his Name wes callit Fatherwar,
That luifit weill with pultrie to tig and tar.

It followis weill be resoun naturall, 795
And gre be gre of richt comparisoun,
Of euill cummis war, of war cummis werst of all,
Of wrangous geir cummis fals possessioun.¹
This Foxe, Bastard of generatioun,
Of verray kynde behufit to be fals; 800
Swa wes his Father, and his Grandschir als.

As Nature will, seikand his meit be sent,
Of cace he fand his Fatheris Carioun,
Nakit, new slane; and till him hes he went,
Tuke vp his heid, and on his kne fell down, 805
Thankand greit God of that conclusioun;
And said: 'now sall I bruke, sen I am air,
The boundis quhair thow wes wont for to repair.'

¹ Cf. pp. 61, 258.

[HARLEIAN

F. 22 *b*. The taill of the sone & air of the
foirsaid fox, callit father wer :
Ellswa the parliament of fourfuttit
Beistis baldin be the Lyoune.

F. 23 *a*. **T**his foirsaid Fox, that deit for his misdeid,
Had not ane barne wes gottin richteouslie, 790
Till airschip be law that nicht succaid,
Except ane sone, quhilk in adulterie
He gottin had in purches priuelie,
And till his name was callit father war,
That luifit weill with pultrie to tig and tar. 795

It followis weill be ressoun naturall,
And gre be gre of richt comparisoun,
Of euill cumis war, of war cumis werst of all,
Of wrangous geir cumis fals successioun.
This foxe, bastard of generatioun, 800
Of verray kynde behuifit to be fals ;
Sa wes his father and his grandschir als.

As nature will, seikand his meit be sent,
Of cace he fand his fatheris carioun,
Nakit, new slane ; and till him hes he went, 805
Tuik vp his heid, and on his kne fell down,
Thankand grit god of that conclusioun ;
And said : ‘ Now sall I bruik, sen I am air,
The boundis quhair thow was wont for to repair.’

CHARTERIS]

Fy! Couetice, vnkynd and venemous :
 The Sone wes fane he fand his Father deid, 810
 Be suddan schot for deidis odious,
 That he micht regne and raxe in till his steid,
 Dreidand na thing the samin lyfe to leid,
 In thift and reif, as did his Father befoir ;
 Bot to the end attent he tuke no moir. 815

¶ 3it neuertheles, throw Naturall pietie
 The Carioun vpon his bak he tais :
 ‘ Now find I weill this Prouerb trew,’ quod he,
 ‘ “ Ay rinnis the Foxe, als lang as he fute has.” ’
 Syne with the Corps vnto ane peitpoit gais, 820
 Of watter full, and kest him in the deip,
 And to the Deuill he gaif his banis to keip.

O fulische man ! plungit in warldlines,
 To conqueis warldlie gude, golde, and rent,
 To put thy Saule in pane or heuines, 825
 To riche thy air, quhilk efter thow art went,
 Haif he thy gude, he takis bot small tent
 To execute, to do, to satisfie
 Thy letter will, thy det, and legacie.

¶ This Tod to rest him, he passit to ane Craig, 830
 And thair he harde ane buisteous Bugill blaw,
 Quhilk, as he thoct, maid all the warld to wag.
 Ane Unicorne come lansand ouer ane Law ;
 Than start he vp, quhen he this hard and saw ;
 Withe horne in hand, ane bill in breist he bure, 835
 Ane Pursephant semelie, I 3ow assure.

[HARLEIAN

Fy ! couetice, vnkynd and venemous : 810

F. 23 b. The sone was fane he fand his father deid,
 Be suddane schot for deidis odious,
 That he mycht ring and rax in to his steid,
 Dreidand na thing the samyn lyfe to leid,
 In thift and reif, as did his father befor ; 815
 Bot to the end attent he tuik no moir.

3it neuertheles, throw naturall pietie
 The carioun vpoun his bak he tais :
 ‘Now find I weill the prouerbe trew,’ quod he,
 ‘“ Ay rynnys the foxe, als lang as he fute hes.”’ 820
 Syne with the corps vnto the peitpot gais,
 Of watter full, and kest him in the deip,
 And to the deuill he gaif his banis to keip.

O fulische man ! plungit in warldlienes,
 To conqueis warldlie gude, and golde, & rent, 825
 To put thy saule in pane or heuines,
 To riche thy air, quhilk efter thow art went,
 Haif he thy gude, he takis bot small tent
 To execute, to do, to satisfie
 Thy letter will, thy det, and legacie. 830

F. 24 a. This tod to rest him, he passit to ane craig,
 And thair he harde ane boustious bugill blaw,
 Quhilk, as he thocht, maid all the warld to waig.
 Ane vnicorne come lansand ouer ane law ;
 Than start he vp, quhen he this hard and saw ; 835
 Withe horne in hand, ane bill in breist he bure,
 Ane pursehant semelie, I 3ow assure.

CHARTERIS]

Unto ane bank, quhair he micht se about
 On euerilk syde, in haist he culd him hy,
 Schot out his voce full schill, and gaif ane schout,
 And on this wyis twyse or thryse did cry. 840
 With that the beistis in the feild thairby,
 All merueland quhat sic ane thing suld mene,
 Greitlie agast, thay gadderit on ane grene.

¶ Out of his breist¹ ane bill sone can he braid,
 And red the Text withouttin tarying : 845
 Commandand silence, sadlie thus he said :
 'The Nobill Lyoun, of all beistis the King,
 Greting to God, helth euerlesting
 To brutall beistis and Irrationall,
 I send, as to my subiectis greit and small. 850

'My Celsitude and hie magnificence
 Lattis 3ow to wit, that euin incontinent,
 Thinkis the morne, with Royall diligence,
 Upon this hill to hald ane Parliament ;
 Straitlie thairfoir I gif Commandement 855
 For to compeir befoir my Tribunall,
 Under all pane and parrell that may fall.'

¶ The morrow come, and Phebus with his bemis
 Consumit had the mistie cluddis gray ;
 The ground wes grene, and als as gold it gleemis, 860
 With gers growand gudelie, greit, and gay ;
 The spyce thay spred to spring on euerilk spray ;
 The Lark, the Maueis, and the Merll full hie,
 Sweitlie can sing, trippand² fra tre to tre.

¹ MS. 'buist.'

² Orig. 'creipand.' See p. 260. Hart, 'tripping.'

[HARLEIAN

Vnto ane bank, quhair he mycht se about
 On euerie side, in haist he culd him hy,
 Schot out his voce full schill, and gaif a schout, 840
 And on this wyis twyse or thryse culd cry.
 With that the beistis in the feild thairby,
 All merueland quhat sic ane thing suld mene,
 Gretlie agast, thay gadderit on ane grene.

Out of ane bus ane bull sone can he braid, 845
 And red the text withoutin taryng :
 Commandand silence, sadlie thus he said :
 'The noble lyoun, of all beistis the king,
 Greeting to god, health euerlesting
 To brutall beistis and Irrationall, 850
 I send, as to my subiectis grit and small.

F. 24 b. 'My celsitude and hie magnificence
 Lettis ȝow to wit, that euin incontinent,
 Thinkis the morne, with royell diligence,
 Vpoun this hill to hald ane parliament ; 855
 Straitlie thairfoir I gif commandiment
 For to compeir befoir my tribunall,
 Vnder all pane and parrell that may fall.'

The morrow come, and phebus with his bemis
 Consumit had the mistie cluddis gray ; 860
 The ground was grene, and als like gold it gleamis,
 With gres growand gritlie, gude, and gay ;
 The spyce thay spred to spring on euerie spray ;
 The lark, the mauais, and the merle full hie,
 Sueitlie can sing, trippand¹ fra tre to tre. 865

¹ MS. ? 'creipand.' See opposite page.

CHARTERIS]

The¹ Leopardis come with Croun of massie gold 865
 Beirand they brocht vnto that hillis hicht,
 With Iaspis Ionit, and Royall Rubeis rold,
 And mony diueris Dyamontis dicht,
 With powis proud ane Palgeoun doun thay picht ;
 And in that Throne thair sat ane wild Lyoun 870
 In Rob Royal, with Sceptour, Swerd, & Croun.

Efter the tennour of the cry befoir,
 That gais on all fourfuttit beistis in eirth,
 As thay commandit wer withouttin moir,
 Befoir thair Lord the Lyoun thay appeirit : 875
 And quhat thay wer, to me as Lowrence leirit,
 I sall reheirs ane part of euerilk kynd,
 Als fer as now occurris to my mynd.

The Minotaur, ane Monster meruelous,
 Bellerophont, that beist of Bastardrie, 880
 The Warwolf, and the Pegase perillous,
 Transformit be assent of sorcerie,
 The Linx, the Tiger full of Tirannie,
 The Elephant, and eik the Dromedarie ;
 The Cameill with his Cran nek furth can carie. 885

¶ The Leopard, as I haif tauld beforne,
 The Anteloip, the Sparth furth couth speid,
 The payntit Pantheir, and the Unicorn ;
 The Rayndeir Ran throw Reueir, Rone, and Reid,
 The Iolie Gillet, and the gentill Steid, 890
 The Asse, the Mule, the Hors of euerilk kynd ;
 The Da, the Ra, the hornit Hart, the Hynd.

¹ Cf. p. 261.

[HARLEIAN

The¹ leopardis come with croun of massie gold
 Beirand they brocht vnto that hillis hicht,
 With iaspis ioynit, and royell rubeis rold,
 And mony diueris dyamontis dicht,
 With powis² proud ane palzeoun can thay picht ; 870
 And in that throne thair sat ane wyld lyoun
 In rob royell, with sceptour, sword, and croun.

F. 25 a. Efter the tennowr of the cry befoir,
 That gais on all fourfuttit beistis on eird,
 As thay commandit war withoutin moir, 875
 Befoir the lord the lioun thay appeirit :
 And quhat thay wer, to me as lowrence leirit,
 I sall reheirs ane pairt of euerie kynd,
 Als fer as now occuris to my mynd.

The minotaur, ane monster meruelous, 880
 Bellerophant, that beist of bastardrie,
 The warwolf, and the pegase perillous,
 Transformit be assent of sorcerie,
 The linx, the tiger full of tiranie,
 The elephant, and eik the dromedarie ; 885
 The cameill with his cran nek furth can carie.

The leopard, as I haif tald beforne,
 The anteloip, the sparth furth can speid,³
 The peyntit pantheir, and the vnicorne ;
 The reyndeir ran throw reueir, rone, and reid, 890
 The Iolie gillet, and the gentill steid,
 The asse, the mule, the horß of euerie kynd ;
 The da, the ra, the hornit hart, the hynd.

¹ Cf. p. 261.² MS. 'towis.'³ MS. 'spreid.'

CHARTERIS]

The Bull, the Beir, the Bugill, and the Bair,
 The Tame Cat, Uildcat, and the Uild wod Swyne, 894
 The Hart, the Hikit Hurcheoun, and the Hirpland Hair,
 Baith Otter and Aip, and Pennit Porcupyne ;
 The Gukit Gait, the selie Scheip, the Swyne,
 The wyld Once, the Buk, the Uelterand Brok,
 The Fowmar with the Fibert furth can flok. 899

The gray Grewhound with Sleuthouzd furth can slyde,
 With Doggis all diueris and different ;
 The Rattoun ran, the Glebard furth can glyde,
 The quhrymand Quhitret with the Quhaisill went,
 The Feitho that hes furrit mony fent,
 The Mertrik, with the Cunning and the Con, 905
 The Bouranbane,¹ and eik the Lerioun.

¶ The Marmysset the Mowdewart couth leid,
 Because that Nature denyit had hir sicht ;
 Thus dressit thay all furth for dreid of deid ;
 The Musk, the lytill Mous with all hir might 910
 With haist scho haikit vnto that hill of hicht ;
 And mony kynd of beistis I couth not knaw,
 Befoir thair Lord the Lyoun thay loutit law.

Seing thir beistis all at his bidding boun,
 He gaif ane braid, and lukit him about ; 915
 Than flatlingis to his feit thay fell all doun,
 For dreid of deith thay droupit all in dout.
 He lukit quhen that he saw thame lout,
 And bad thame, with ane countenance full sweit,
 'Be not effeirit, but stand vp on 3our feit. 920

¹ Cf. p. 262. Hart, 'Bourabane.'

[HARLEIAN

F. 25 b. The bull, the beir, the bugill, and the ba^r,
 The tame cat, wyldcat, and the wyld wod swyne, 895
 The hardbakkit hurcheoun, and the hirpilland hair,
 Baith otter and aip, and pennit porcupyne ;
 The gukit gait, the selie scheip, the swyne,
 The wyld once, the buk, the welterand brok,
 The fougart with the febert furth can flok. 900

The gray grewhound with slwthound furth can slide,
 With doggis all diueris and different ;
 The rattoun ran, the glebard furth can glide,
 The quhairand quhitret with the quhasill went,
 The feitho that hes furrit mony fent, 905
 The mertrik, with the cuning and the con,
 The bowranbane,¹ and eik the lerion.

The marmisset the mowdewart couth leid,
 Becaus that nature had denyit hir sicht ;
 Thus dresset thay all furth for dreid of deid ; 910
 The musk, the litill mous ~~wit~~ all hir nicht
 With haist scho haikit vnto that hill of hicht ;
 And mony kynd of beistis I couth not knaw,
 Befoir thair lord the lioun thay lowtit law.

F. 26 a. Seing thir beistis all at his bidding boun, 915
 He gaif ane braid, and luikit him about ;
 Than flatlingis to his feit thay fell all doun,
 For dreid of deith thay droupit all in dout.
 He luikit quhen that he saw thame lout,
 And bad thame, with ane countenance full sweet, 920
 ‘ Be not effeirit, but stand vp on 3our feit.

¹ See note on p. 68.

CHARTERIS]

'I lat 3ow wit my micht is merciabill,
 And steiris nane that ar to me prostrait,
 Angrie, austerne, and als vnamyabill
 To all that stand fray¹ ar to myne estait.
 I rug, I reif all beistis that makis debait 925
 Aganis the micht of my Magnificence :
 Se nane pretend to pryde in my presence.

'My Celsitude and my hie Maiestie
 With micht and mercie myngit sall be ay ;
 The lawest hart I can full sone vp hie, 930
 And mak him maister ouer 3ow all I may.
 The Dromedarie, gif he will mak deray,
 The greit Cameill, thocht he wer neuer sa crous,
 I can him law als lytill als ane Mous.

¶ 'Se neir be twentie mylis quhair I am 935
 The Kid ga saiflie be the gaittis syde,
 The Tod Lowrie luke not to the lam,
 Na reuand beistis nouth Ryn nor ryde.'
 Thay Couchit all efter that this wes cryde ;
 The Iustice bad the Court for to gar fence, 940
 The sutis callit, and foirfalt all absence.

The Panther, with his payntit Coit Armour,
 Fensit the Court, as of the Law effeirit ;
 Than Tod Lowrie lukit quhair he couth lour,
 And start on fute, all stonist, and all steird ; 945
 Ryifand his hair, he cryit with ane reird,
 Quaikand for dreid, and sichand couth he say :
 'Allace this hour, allace this dulefull day

¹ Orig. 'standfray.'

[HARLEIAN

' I lat ȝow wit my mycht is merciabſe,
 And ſteiris nane that ar to me proſtrait,
 Angrie, auſterne, and als vnamiable
 To all that ſtand fray to myne eſtait. 925
 I rug, I reif all beistiſ that makis debait
 Aganiſ the micht of my magnificence :
 Se nane pretend to pryde in my preſence.

' My celſitude and my hie maiestie
 With micht and mercie myngit ſalbe ay ; 930
 The laweſt heir I can full ſone vp hie,
 And mak him maister ouer ȝow all I may.
 The dromedarie, gif he will mak dirray,
 The grit cameill, thoct he war neuer ſa crouſ,
 F. 26 b. I can him law als litill als ane mous. 935

' Se neir be tuentie myliſ quhair I am
 The kid ga ſaiflie be the gaittiſ ſide,
 The tod lowrie luik not to the lam,
 Na reuand beistiſ nouthar rin nor ryde.'
 Thay couchit all efter that thiſ was cryde ; 940
 Thiſ Juſtice bad the court for to gar fence,
 The ſuittiſ callit, and foirfalt all abſence.

The panther, with the payntit coit armour,
 Feniſt the court, as of the law effeirit ;
 Than tod lowrie luikit quhair he couth lour, 945
 And ſtart on fute, all ſtoneiſt, and all ſteirit ;
 Ryifand hiſ hair, he cryit with ane reird,
 Quaikand for dreid, and ſichand culd he ſay :
 ' Allace thiſ hour, allace thiſ dulefull day !

CHARTERIS]

'I wait this suddan Semblie that I se,
 Haifand the pointis of ane Parliament, 950
 Is maid to mar sic misdoars as me ;
 Thairfoir, gif I me schaw, I wilbe schent ;
 I wilbe socht, and I be red absent ;
 To byde, or fle, it makis not remeid ;
 All is alyke, thair followis not bot deid.' 955

Perplexit thus in his hart can he mene
 Throw falset how he nicht him self defend ;
 His Hude he drew laich attour his Ene,
 And, winkand with ane Eye, furth he wend ;
 Clinscheand he come, that he nicht not be kend, 960
 And, for dreddour that he suld bene arreist,
 He playit bukhude behind, fra beist to beist.

¶ O fylit Spreit, and cankerit Conscience !
 Befoir ane Roy Renzeit with richteousnes,
 Blakinnit cheikis and schamefull countenance ! 965
 Fairweill thy fame, defylit for ay is,
 The Phisnomie, the fauour of thy face,
 For thy defence is foull and disfigurate,
 Brocht to the licht, blaisit, blunt, and blait.

Be thou atteichit with thift or with tressoun 970
 For thy misdeid wrangous and wickit fay,
 Thy cheir changis, Lowrence ; thou man luke down ;
 Thy worschip of this warld is went away.
 Luke to this Toid, how he wes in effray,
 And fle the filth of falset, I the reid, 975
 Quhairthrow thair followis syn & schameful deid.

[HARLEIAN

‘I wait this suddane semblie that I se, 950
 Haifand the pointis of ane parliament,
 Is maid to mar sic misdoars as me ;
 Thairfoir, gif I me schaw, I wilbe schent ;

F. 27 a. I wilbe socht, and I be red absent ;
 To byde, or fle, it makis no remeid ; 955
 All is alike, thair followis not bot deid.’

Perplexit thus in his hart can he mene
 Throw falset how he micht him self defend ;
 His hude he drew laich attour his ene,
 And, winkand with ane eye, furth he wend ; 960
 Clinschand he come, that he micht not be kend,
 And, for dreddour that he suld bene arreist,
 He playit bukhude behind, fra beist to beist.

O fylit spreit, and cankerit conscience !
 Befoir ane roy reinzeit with richteousnes, 965
 Blakinnit cheikis and schamefull countenance !
 Fairweill thy fame, now gone is all thy grace,
 The phisnomie, the fauour of thy face,
 For thy defence is foull and disfigureate,
 Brocht to the licht, baisit, blunt, and blait. 970

Be thou atteichit with thift or with tressone
 For thy misdeid wrangous and wickit fay,
 Thy cheir chaingis, lowrence ; thou may luik down ;
 Thy worschip of this warld is went away.

F. 27 b. Luik to this tod, how he wes in effray, 975
 And fle the filth of falset, I the reid,
 Quhairthrow thair followis sin and schamefull deid.

CHARTERIS]

Comperand thus befoir thair Lord and King,
 In ordour set as to thair stait effeird,
 Of euerilk kynd he gart ane part furthbring,
 And awfullie he spak, and at thame speird 980
 Gif thair wes ony kynd of beistis in eird
 Absent, and thairto gart thame deiplie sweir;
 And thay said: 'nane, except ane Stude gray Meir.'

'Ga, make ane message sone vnto that Stude.'
 The Court than cryit: 'now see, quha sall it be?' 985
 'Cum furth, Lowrie, lurkand vnder thy hude.'
 'Aa, Schir, mercie! lo, I haif bot ane Ee;
 Hurt in the heid, and cruikit as 3e may se;
 The Uolf is better in Ambassatrie,
 And mair cunning in Clergie fer then I.' 990

Rampand he said, 'ga furth, brybouris baith!'
 And thay to ga withouttin tarying.
 Ouer Ron and Rute thay ran togidder raith,
 And fand the Meir at hir meit in the morning.
 'Now,' quod the Tod, 'Madame, cum to the King, 995
 The Court is callit, and 3e ar *Contumax*.'
 'Let be, Lowrence,' quod scho, '3our Courtlie Knax.'

¶ 'Maistres,' quod he, 'cum to the Court 3e mon;
 The Lyoun hes commandit so in deid.'
 'Schir Tod, tak 3e the Flyrdome, and the Fon, 1000
 I haif respite ane 3eir, and 3e will reid.'
 'I can not spell,' quod he, 'sa God me speid:
 Heir is the Uolf, ane Nobill Clerk at all,
 And of this Message is maid principall.

[HARLEIAN

Compeirand thus befor thair lord and king,
 In ordour set as to thair stait effeirit,
 Of euerie kynd he gart ane pairt furth bring, 980
 And awfullie he spak, and at thame speird
 Gif thair wes ony kynd of beist on eird
 Absent, and thairto gart thame deiply sweir;
 And thay said: 'nane, except ane stuid gray meir.'

'Ga, mak ane message sone vnto that stuid.' 985
 The court than cryit: 'now se, quha sall it be?'
 'Cum furth, lowrie, lurkand vnder thy hude.'
 'Aa, schir, mercie! lo, I haif bot ane Ee;
 Hurt in the hoche, and cruikit as 3e may se;
 The wolf is better in ambassatry, 990
 And mair cunning in clergie fer then I.'

Rampand he said, 'ga furth, brybouris baith!'
 And thay to ga withoutin tarying.
 Ouer ron and rute thay ran to gidder raith,
 F. 28 a. And fand the meir at hir meit in the morning. 995
 'Now,' quod the tod, 'madame, cum to the king,
 The court is callit, and 3e ar contumar.'
 'Let be, lawrence,' quod scho, '3our courtlie knax.'

'Maistres,' quod he, 'cum to the court 3e mon;
 The lyoun hes commandit so indeid.' 1000
 'Schir tod, tak 3e the flirdome, and the fon,
 I haif respite ane 3eir, and 3e will reid.'
 'I can not spell,' quod he, 'sa god me speid:
 Heir is the wolf, ane noble clerk at all,
 And of this message is maid principall. 1005

CHARTERIS]

'He is Autentik, and ane man of age, 1005
 And hes greit practik of the Chancellarie;
 Let him ga luke, and reid 3our Priuilege,
 And I sall stand, and beir witnes 3ow by.'
 'Quhair is thy Respite?' quod the Uolf, in hy.
 'Schir, it is heir, vnder my hufe weill hid.' 1010
 'Hald vp thy heill,' quod he; and so scho did.

Thocht he wes blindit with pryde, 3it he presumis
 To luke doun law, quhair that hir letter lay.
 With that the Meir gird him vpon the gumis,
 And straik the hattrell of his heid away. 1015
 Half out of lyif, thair lenand doun he lay:
 'Allace,' quod Lowrence, 'Lupe, thow art loist.'
 'His cunning,' quod the Meir, 'wes worth sum coist.

'Lowrence,' quod scho, 'will thow luke on my letter,
 Sen that the Uolf na thing thair of can wyn?' 1020
 'Na, be Sanct Bryde,' quod he, 'me think it better
 To sleip in haill nor in ane hurt skyn.
 Ane skrow I fand, and this wes writtin in,
 —For fiae schillingis I wald not anis forfault him—
Felix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum.' 1025

[With brokin skap, and bludie cheikis reid,
 This wretchit Uolf weipand thus on he went,
 Of this men3e markand to get remeid;
 To tell the King the cace wes his Intent.
 'Schir,' quod the Tod, 'bye still vpon this bent, 1030
 And fra 3our browis wesche away the blude,
 And tak ane drink, for it will do 3ow gude.'

[HARLEIAN

'He is autentik, and ane man of aige,
 And hes grit practik of the chancellarye;
 Let him ga luik, and reid 3our priuillage,
 And I sall stand, and beir witnes 3ow by.'
 'Quhair is thy respite?' quod the wolf, in hy. 1010
 'Schir, it is heir, vnder my hufe weill hid.'
 'Hald vp thy heill,' quod he; and so scho did.

Thocht he was blindit with pryde, 3it he *presumis*
 F. 28 b. To luik down law, quhair that hir letter lay.
 With that the meir gird him vpoun the gumis, 1015
 And straik the hatt[r]jell of his heid away.
 Half out of lyfe, thair lenand down he lay:
 'Allace,' quod lowrence, '*Lupus*, thow art loist.'
 'His cunning,' quod the meir, 'was wirth sum coist.

'Lawrence,' quod scho, 'will thow luik on my letter, 1020
 Sen that the wolf na thing thairof can win?'
 'Na, be sanct bryde,' quod he, 'me think it better
 To sleip in haill than in hurt skin.
 Ane skrow I fand, and this wes written in,
 —For fyve schillingis I wald not anis forfaut him— 1025
Felix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum.'

With bludie skap, and cheikis bla and reid,
 This wretchit wolf weipand thus on he went,
 Of this meni3e markand to get remeid;
 To tell the king the cace wes his intent. 1030
 'Schir,' quod the tod, 'bye still vpoun this bent,
 And fra 3our browis wesche away the blude,
 And tak ane drink, for it will do 3ow gude.'

CHARTERIS]

To feche watter this fraudfull Foxe furth fure,
 Sydelingis abak ¹ he socht vnto ane syke ²;
 On cace he meittis, cummand fra the mure, 1035
 Ane Trip of Lambis dansand on ane dyke.
 This Tratour Tod, this Tirrane, and this Tyke,
 The fattest of this flock he fellit hais,
 And eit his fill; syne to the Uolf he gais.

Thay drank togidder, & syne thair Iourney takis; 1040
 Befoir the King syne kneillit on thair kne.
 'Quhair is 3one Meir, Schir Tod, wes *Contumax*?'
 Than Lowrence said: 'My Lord, speir not at me!
 Speir at 3our Doctour of Diuinitie,
 With his reid Cap can tell 3ow weill aneuch.' 1045
 With that the Lyoun and all the laif thay leuch.

'Tell on the cais now, Lowrence, let vs heir.'
 'This wittie Uolf,' quod he, 'this Clerk of age,
 On 3our behalf he bad the Meir compeir,
 And scho allegit to ane priuilege— 1050
 "Cum neir and se, and 3e sall haif 3our wage."
 Because he red hir respite plane and weill,
 3one reid Bonat scho raucht him with hir heill.'

¶ The Lyoun said, 'be 3one reid Cap I ken
 This Taill is trew, quha tent unto it takis; 1055
 The greitest Clerkis ar not the wysest men;
 The hurt of ane happie the vther makis.'
 As thay wer carpand in this cais and ³ Knakis,
 And all the Court in merines and in gam,
 Swa come the 3ow, the Mother of the Lam. 1060

¹ Cf. p. 266.² Orig. 'slyke.'³ See opposite page, and p. 267, l. 257.

[HARLEIAN

F. 29 a. To fette watter this fraudfull foxe furth fure,
 Sydelingis abak¹ he socht vnto ane syke ; 1035
 On cace he meittis, cumand fra the mure,
 Ane trip of lambis dansing on ane dyke.
 This tratour tod, this tirrane, and this tyke,
 The fattest of this flock he fellit hais,
 And eit his fill ; syne to the wolf he gais. 1040

Thay drank to gidder, and syne thair Iourney taks ;
 Before the king syne kneillit on thair kne.
 ‘ Quhair is 3one meir, schir tod, wes contumar ? ’
 Then lowrence said : ‘ My lord, speir not at me !
 Speir at 3our doctour of diuinitie, 1045
 With his reid cap can tell 3ow weill aneuch.’
 With that the lioun and all the laif thay leuch.

‘ Tell on the cace now, lowrence, let ws heir.’
 ‘ This wittie wolf,’ quod he, ‘ this clerk of age,
 On 3our behalf he bad the meir compeir, 1050
 And scho allegit to ane priuilege—
 “ Cum neir and se, and 3e sall haif 3our wage.”
 Becaus he red hir respite plane and weill,

F. 29 b. 3one reid bonat scho racht him with hir heill.’

 The lioun said, ‘ be 3one reid cap I ken 1055
 This taill is trew, quha tent wnto it takis ;
 The grittest clerkis ar not the wysest men ;
 The hurt of ane happie the vther makis.’
 As thay wer carpand in this cace w^{it}h knakis,
 And all the court in merines and gam, 1060
 Sua come the 3ow, the mother of the lam.

¹ Cf. p. 266.

CHARTERIS]

Befoir the Iustice on hir kneis fell,
 Put out hir playnt on this wyis wofullie :
 ' This harlet huresone, and this hound of hell,
 Deuorit hes my Lamb full doggitlie,
 Within ane myle, in contrair to 3our cry. 1065
 For Goddis lufe, my Lord, gif me the Law
 Of this lurker : ' with that Lowrence let draw.

' Byde,' quod the Lyoun, ' Lymmer, let vs se
 Gif it be suthe the sellie 3ow hes said.'
 ' Aa, Souerane Lord, saif 3our mercy,' quod he, 1070
 ' My purpois wes with him for to haif playid ;
 Causles he fled, as he had bene effrayid ;
 For dreid of deith he duschit ouer ane dyke,
 And brak his nek.' ' Thow leis,' quod scho, ' fals tyke.

' His deith be practik may be preuit eith : 1075
 Thy gorrie gumis and thy bludie snout,
 The woll, the flesche 3it stikkis on thy teith,
 And that is euidence aneuch, but dout.'
 The Iustice bad ga cheis ane Assyis about ;
 And so thay did, and fand that he wes fals, 1080
 Of Murther, thift, pyking, and tressoun als.

¶ Thay band him fast, the Iustice bad belyif
 To gif the dome, and tak of all his claithis ;
 The Uolf, that new maid Doctour, couth him schryif ;
 Syne furth him led, and to the gallous gais, 1085
 And at the ledder fute his leif he tais ;
 The Aip wes Boucher, and bad him sone ascend,
 And hangit him ; and thus he maid his end.

[HARLEIAN

Before the iustice on hir kneis fell,
 Put out hir plaint on this wayis wofully :
 ‘This harlet huresoun, and this hound of hell,
 Deuorit hes my lamb full doggitly, 1065
 Within ane myle, in contrair to 3our cry.
 For goddis lufe, my lord, gif me the law
 Of this lurker :’ w^{it}h that lowrence let draw.

‘Byde,’ quod the lioun, ‘limmer, let ws se
 Gif it be suthe the sillie 3ow hes said.’ 1070
 ‘Aa, souerane lord, saif 3our mercy,’ quod he,
 ‘My purpois wes with him for to haif plaid ;
 Causles he fled, as he had bene effraid ;
 For dreid of deith he duschit ouer ane dyke, 1074
 And brak hes nek.’ ‘thow leis,’ quod scho, ‘fals tyke.

F. 30 a. ‘His deith be practik may be preuit eith :
 Thy gorrie gumis and thy bludie snout,
 The woll, the flesche 3it stikkis on thy teith,
 And that is euidence aneuch, but dout.’
 The iustice bad ga cheis ane assyis about ; 1080
 And so thay did, and fand that he wes fals,
 Of murthour, thift, pykeing, and tressoun als.

Thay band him fast, the iustice bad belyif
 To gif the dome, and tak of all his clais ; 1084
 The wolf, that new maid doctour, couth him schriue ;
 Syne furth him led, and to the gallowis gais,
 And at the ledder fute his leif he tais ;
 The aip wes boucher, and bad him sone ascend,
 And hangit him ; and thus he maid his end.

CHARTERIS]

MORALITAS.

RICHT as the Mynour in his Minorall
 Fair gold with fyre may fra the Leid weill wyn, 1090
 Richt so vnder ane Fabill figurall
 Sad sentence men may seik, and efter fyne,
 As daylie dois the Doctouris of Deuyne,
 That to our leuing full weill can apply
 And paynt thair mater furth be Poetry. 1095

The Lyoun is the warld be liknes,
 To quhome loutis baith Empriour and King,
 And thinkis of this warld to get incres,
 Thinkand daylie to get mair leuing ;
 Sum for to reull, and sum to raxe and Ring ; 1100
 Sum gadderis geir, sum gold, sum vther gude ;
 To wyn this warld, sum wirkis as thay wer wod.

The Meir is Men of gude conditioun,
 As Pilgrymes walkand in this wildernes,
 Approuand that for richt Religioun 1105
 Thair God onlie to pleis in euerilk place ;
 Abstractit frome this warldis wretchitnes,
 Fechtand with lust, presumptioun, and pryde,
 And fra this warld in mynde ar mortyfyde.

This Uolf I likkin to Sensualitie, 1110
 As quhen, lyke brutall beistis, we accord
 Our mynd all to this warldis vanitie,
 Lyking to tak and loif him as our Lord :
 Fle fast thairfra, gif thow will richt remord ;
 Than sall Ressoun ryse, Rax, and Ring, 1115
 And for thy Saull thair is na better thing.

[HARLEIAN

Moralitas.

Richt as the minor in his minoraie 1090
 Fair gold with fire may fra the leid weill win,
 Richt so vnder ane fabill figurall
 Sad sentence men may seik, and efter fyne,
 As dailie dois the doctouris of deuyne,
 That to oure leuing full weill can apply 1095
 And paynt thair mater furth be poetry.

F. 30 b. The lioun is the warld be liknes,
 To quhome loutis baith empriour and king,
 And thinkis of this warld to get incres,
 Thinkand dailie to get mair leuing ; 1100
 Sum for to rule, and sum to rax and ring ;
 Sum gadderis geir, sum gold, sum vther gude ;
 To win this warld, sum wirkis as thay wer wod.

The meir is men of gude conditioun,
 As pilgrimes wandrand in this wildernes, 1105
 Approuand that for richt religioun
 Thair god onlie to pleis in euerie place ;
 Abstractit frome this warldis wretchidnes,
 Fechtand with lust, presumptioun, and pryde,
 And fra this warld in mynde ar mortyfide. 1110

This wolf I likkin to sensualitie,
 As quhen, like brutall beistis, we accord
 Oure mynd all to this warldis vanitie,
 Lyking to tak and loif him as oure lord :
 Fle fast thairfra, gif thow will richt remord ; 1115
 Than sall ressoun ryis, rax, and ring,
 And for thy saule thair is na better thing.

CHARTERIS]

¶ Hir Hufe I likkin to the thocht of deid.
 Will thow remember, Man, that thow man de?
 Thow may brek Sensualiteis heid,
 And fleschlie lust away fra the sall fle, 1120
 Fra thow begin thy mynd to mortifie;
 Salomonis saying thow may persaisf heirin:
 'Think on thy end, thow sall not glaidlie sin.'

This Tod I likkin to Temptationis,
 Beirand to mynd mony thochtis vane, 1125
 Assaultand men with sweit persuasionis,
 Ay reddie for to trap thame in ane trayne;
 3it gif thay se Sensualitie neir slane,
 And suddand deith draw neir with panis sore,
 Thay go abak, and temptis thame no moir. 1130

O Mediatour! mercifull and meik,
 Thow Souerane Lord, and King Celestiall,
 Thy Celsitude maist humillie we beseik,
 Us to defend fra pane and perrellis all,
 And help vs vp vnto thy heuinlie hall, 1135
 In gloir, quhair we may se the face of God.—
 And thus endis the talking of the Tod.

¶ FINIS.

[HARLEIAN

F. 31 a. Hir hufe I likkin to the thocht of deid.

Will thow remember, man, that thow mon de?

Thow may brek sensualiteis heid,

1120

And fleschlie lust away fra the sall fle,

Fra thow begin thy mynd to mortifie;

Salomonis saying thow may persaif heirin:

'Think on thy end, thow sall not glaidlie sin.'

This tod I likkin to temptationis,

1125

Beirand to mynd mony thochtis vane,

Assaultand men be sweit perswationis,

Ay reddie for to trap thame in ane trane;

Ȝit gif thay se sensualitie neir slane,

And suddane deith draw neir *wit* panis sore,

1130

Thay go abak, and temptis thame no moir.

O mediatour! mercifull and meik,

Thow souerane lord, and king celestially,

Thy celsitude maist humelie we beseik,

Ws to defend frome pane and perrellis all,

1135

And help ws vp vnto thy heuinlie hall,

In gloir, quhair we may se the face of god.—

And thus endis the talking of the tod.

CHARTERIS]

THE TAILL OF THE SCHEIP AND
THE DOIG.

[E]¹ SOPE ane Taill puttis in memorie,
 How that ane Doig, because that he wes pure,
 Callit ane Scheip to the Consistorie, 1140
 Ane certane breid fra him for to recure.
 Ane fraudfull Uolf wes Iuge that tyme, and bure
 Authoritie and Iurisdiction,
 And on the Scheip send furth ane strait summoun.

¶ For by the vse, and cours, and commoun style 1145
 On this maner maid his Citatioun :
 ‘I, Maister Uolf, partles of fraud and gyle,
 Under the panis of hie Suspensioun,
 Of greit Cursing, and Interdictioun,
 Schir Scheip, I charge the for to compeir, 1150
 And answer to ane Doig before me heir.’

Schir Corbie Rauin wes maid Apparitour,
 Quha pykit had full mony Scheipis Ee ;
 The charge hes tane, and on the letteris bure ;
 Summonit the Scheip befor the Uolf, that he 1155
 Peremptourlie, within twa dayis or thre,
 Compeir vnder the panis in this bill,
 ‘To heir quhat Perrie Doig will say the till.’

This Summond is² maid befor witnes anew ;
 The Rauin, as to his office weill effeird, 1160
 Indorsat hes the write, and on he flew ;
 The selie Scheip durst lay na mouth on eird,
 Till he befor the awfull Iuge appeird,
 The hour of cause quhilk that the Iuge vsit than,
 Quhen Hesperus to schaw his face began. 1165

¹ Torn off in the original.² Orig. ‘Summondis.’

[HARLEIAN

F. 31 b.

The taill of the Scheip and the Dog.

Esope ane¹ taill puttis in memorie,
 How that ane dog, becaus that he wes pure, 1140
 Callit ane scheip to the consistorie,
 Ane certane breid fra him for to recur.
 Ane fraudfull wolf wes iuge that tyme, & bure
 Authoritie and iurisdiction,
 And on the scheip send furth ane strait summoun. 1145

For by the vse, and cours, and commoun stile
 On this maner maid his citatioun :
 'I, maister wolf, pairtles of fraude and gile,
 Vnder the panis of hie suspensioun,
 Of grit cursing, and interdicioun, 1150
 Schir scheip, I chaing the for to compeir,
 And answeir to ane dog before me heir.'

Schir corbie rauin wes maid apparetour,
 Quha pykit had full mony scheipis ee ;
 The charge hes tane, and on the letteris bure ; 1155
 Summonit the scheip before the wolf, that he
 Peremptourlie, within twa dayis or thre,

F. 32 a. Compeir vnder the panis in this bill,
 'To heir quhat pirrie dog will say the till.'

This summond is maid before witnes anew ; 1160
 The rauin, as to his office weill effeird,
 Indorsate hes the write, and on he flew ;
 The sillie scheip durst lay na mouth on eird,
 Till he before the awfull iuge appeird,
 The hour of caus quhilk that the iuge vsit than, 1165
 Quhen hesperous to schaw his face began.

¹ Repeated twice in the MS.

CHARTERIS]

The Foxe wes Clerk and Noter in the cause ;
 The Gled, the Graip, at the Bar couth stand ;
 As Aduocatis expert into the Lawis,
 The Doggis pley togidder tuke on hand,
 Quhilk wer confidderit straitlie in ane band, 1170
 Aganis the Scheip to procure the sentence ;
 Thocht it was fals, thay had na conscience.

¶ The Clerk callit the Scheip, and he wes thair ;
 The Aduocatis on this wyse couth propone :
 'Ane¹ certane breid, worth fyue schilling or mair, 1175
 Thow aw the Doig, of quhilk the terme is gone.'
 Of his awin heid, but Aduocate allone,
 The Scheip auysitlie gaif answer in the cace :
 'Heir I declyne the Iuge, the tyme, the place.

'This is my cause, in motiue and effect : 1180
 The Law sayis, it is richt perrillous
 Till enter in pley before ane Iuge suspect ;
 And 3e, Schir Uolf, hes bene richt odious
 To me, for with 3our Tuskis rauenous
 Hes slane full mony kinnismen of myne ; 1185
 Thairfoir, Iuge as suspect, I 3ow declyne.

'And schortlie, of this Court 3e memberis all,
 Baith Assessouris, Clerk, and Aduocate,
 To me and myne ar enemeis mortall,
 And ay hes bene, thocht I mycht not it lat ; 1190
 The place is fer, the tyme is feriat,²
 Quhairfoir na Iuge suld sit in Consistorie,
 Sa lait at euin, I 3ow accuse for thy.'

¹ Orig. 'and.'² Orig. 'insperate,' but indistinct. Hart, 'desperat.'

[HARLEIAN

The foxe wes clerk and notare in the cause ;
 The gled, the grape, at the bar couth stand ;
 As aduocatis expert in the lawis,
 The doggis pley to gidder tuke on hand, 1170
 Quhilk wer confidderate straitlie in ane band,
 Aganis the scheip to procure the sentence ;
 Thocht it was fals, thay had na conscience.

The clerk callit the scheip, and he wes thair ;
 The aduocatis on this wayis couth propone : 1175
 ‘ Ane certane breid, worth fyue schillingis or mair,
 Thow aw the dog, of quhilk the terme is gone.’
 Of his awin heid, but aduocate allone,
 F. 32 b. The scheip ausitlie gaif answer in the cace :
 ‘ Heir I decline the iuge, the tyme, the place. 1180

‘ This is my cause, in motiue and effect :
 The law sayis, it is richt perrillous
 Till enter in pley before ane iuge suspect ;
 And 3e, schir wolf, hes bene richt odious
 To me, for with 3our tuskis rauenous 1185
 Hes slane full mony kynnismen of myne ;
 Thairfoir, iuge as suspect, I 3ow decline.

‘ And schortlie, of this court 3e memberis all,
 Baith assessouris, clerk, and aduocate,
 To me and myne ar ennemeis mortale, 1190
 And ay hes bene, as mony scheiphird wate ;
 The place is fer, the tyme is feriat,
 Quhairfoir na iuge suld sit in consistorie,
 Sa lait at evin, I 3ow accuse for thy.’

CHARTERIS]

Quhen that the Iuge on this wyse wes accusit,
 He bad the parteis cheis, with ane assent, 1195
 Twa Arbeteris, as in the Law is vsit,
 For to declair and gif Arbitrement,
 Quhiddel the scheip suld answer in Iugement
 Before the Uolf; and so thay did but weir,
 Of quhome the Namis efterwart 3e sall heir. 1200

¶ The Beir, the Brok the mater tuke on hand,
 For to decyde gif this exceptioun
 Wes of na strenth, nor lauchfullie mycht stand;
 And thairupon, as Iugis, thay sat down,
 And held ane lang quhile disputatioun, 1205
 Seikand full mony Decreitis of the Law,
 And Glosis als, the veritie to knaw.

Of Ciuile Law volumis full mony thay reuolue,
 The Codies and Digestes new and ald;
 Contrait, Prostrait Argumentis thay resolue, 1210
 Sum obiecting, and sum can hald;
 For prayer, or price, trow 3e that thay wald fald?
 Bot had the glose and Text of the Decreis,
 As trew Iugis; I beschrew thame ay that leis.

Schortlie to mak ane end of this debait: 1215
 The Arbiteris than did sweir full plane,
 The sentence gaif and proces fulminat:
 The Scheip suld pas befor the Uolf agane,
 And end his pley. Than wes he nathing fane,
 For fra thair sentence couth he not appeill. 1220
 On Clerkis I do it,¹ gif this sentence wes leill.

¹ Hart, 'I doe giue.'

[HARLEIAN

- Quhen that the iuge in this wayis wes accusit, 1195
 He bad the parteis cheis, with ane assent,
 Twa arbeteris, as in the law is vsit,
 For to declair and gif arbitrimint,
 Quidder the scheip suld answer in iugement
 F. 33 a. Before the wolf; and so thay did but weir, 1200
 Of quhome the names efterwart 3e sall heir.

The beir, the brok the mater tuik on hand,
 For to decyde gif this exceptioun
 Wes of na strenth, nor lauchfullie nicht stand;
 And thairupoun, as iugeis, thay sat down, 1205
 And held ane lang quhile disputioun,
 Seikand full mony decreitis of the law,
 And glosis als, the veritie to know.

Of ciuile law volumis full mony thay reuolue,
 The codies and degistis new and ald; 1210
 Contrait, prostrait argumentis thay resolue,
 Sum obiecting, and sum can hald;
 For prayer, or price, trow 3e that thay wald fald?
 Bot held the text and glose of the decries,
 As trew iugeis; I beschrew thame ay that leis. 1215

- Schortlie to mak ane end of this debait:
 The arbiteris than sweirand plane,
 The sentence gaif and proces fulminate:
 F. 33 b. The scheip suld pas before the wolf agane,
 And end his pley: than wes he na thing fane, 1220
 For fra thair sentence couth he not appeill.
 On clerkis I do it, gif this sentence wes leill.

CHARTERIS]

¶ The Scheip agane befor the Uolf derenzeit,
 But Aduocate, abasitlie couth stand.
 Up rais the doig, and on the Scheip thus plenzzeit :
 Ane soume I payit haif befor the hand 1225
 For certane breid ; ' thairto ane Borrow he fand,
 That wrangouslie the Scheip did hald the breid ;
 Quhilk he denyit ; and thair began the pleid.

¶ And quhen the Scheip this strif¹ had contestait,
 The Iustice in the cause furth can proceid ; 1230
 Lowrence the actis and the proces wrait,
 And thus the pley vnto the end thay speid.
 This Cursit Court, corruptit all for meid,
 Aganis gude faith, Law, and eik conscience,
 For this fals Doig pronuncit the sentence. 1235

And it till put to executioun,
 The Uolf chagit the Scheip, without delay,
 Under the panis of Interdictioun,
 The soume of siluer, or the breid, to pay.
 Of this sentence, allace, quhat sall I say, 1240
 Quhilk dampnit hes the selie Innocent,
 And Iustifyit the wrangous Iugement ?

The Scheip, dreidand mair executioun,
 Obeyand to the sentence, he couth tak
 His way vnto ane Merchand of the Toun, 1245
 And sauld the woll that he bure on his bak ;
 Syne bocht the breid, and to the Doig couth mak
 Reddie payment, as it commandit was :
 Nakit and bair syne to the feild couth pas.

¹ Orig. ? 'stuf.'

[HARLEIAN

The scheip agane before the wolf dereinzeit,
 But aduocat, abasitlie couth stand.
 Vp rais the dog, and on the scheip thus pleinzeit : 1225
 ' Ane soume I pait haif before the hand
 For certane breid ; ' thairto ane borrow he fand,
 That wranguslie the scheip did hald the breid ;
 Quhilk he denyit ; and thair began the pleid.

And quhen the scheip this stryif had contestait, 1230
 The iustice in the caus furth can proceid ;
 Lowrence the actis and the proces wrait,
 And thus the pley vnto the end thay speid.
 This cursit court, corruptit all for meid,
 Aganis gude faith, law, and eik conscience, 1235
 For this fals dog pronuncit the sentence.

And it till put to executioun,
 The wolf chairgit the scheip, without delay,
 Vnder the panis of interdicioun,
 F. 34 a. The sowme of siluer, or the breid, to pay. 1240
 Of this sentence, allace, quhat sall I say,
 Quhilk dampnit hes the silie innocent,
 And iustifiit the wrangous iugement ?

The scheip, dreidand mair the executioun,
 Obayand to the sentence, he couth tak 1245
 His way vnto ane merchand of the touñ,
 And sauld the woll he bure vpoun his bak ;
 Syne brocht the breid, and to the dog couth mak
 Reddie payment, as it commandit was :
 Naikit and bair syne to the feild couth pas. 1250

CHARTERIS]

MORALITAS.

THIS sillie Scheip may present the figure 1250
 Of pure commounis, that daylie is opprest
 Be Tirrane men, quhilkis settis all thair cure
 Be fals menis to mak ane wrang conquest,
 In hope this present lyfe suld euer lest ;
 Bot all begylit thay will in schort tyme end, 1255
 And efter deith to lestand panis wend.

¶ This Uolf I likkin to ane Schiref stout,
 Quhilk byis ane forfalt at the Kingis hand,
 And hes with him ane cursit Assyis about,
 And dytis all the pure men vp on land. 1260
 Fra the Crownar haif laid on him his wand,
 Thocht he wer trew as euer wes Sanct Iohne,
 Slane sall he be, or with the Iuge compone.

This Rauin I likkin to ane fals Crownar,
 Quhilk hes ane portioun¹ of the Inditement, 1265
 And passis furth befor the Iustice Air,
 All misdoaris to bring to Iugement ;
 Bot luke, gif he wes of ane trew Intent,
 To Scraip out Iohne, and wryte in Will, or Wat,
 And swa ane bud at baith the parteis tak.² 1270

Of this fals Tod, of quhilk I spak befor,
 And of this Gled, quhat thay nicht signifie,
 Of thair nature, as now I speik no moir ;
 Bot of this Scheip and of his cairfull cry
 I sall reheirs ; for as I passit by 1275
 Quhair that he lay, on cais I lukit doun,
 And hard him mak sair lamentatioun.

¹ Cf. p. 296.² Cf. p. 296.

[HARLEIAN

Moralitas.

This sillie scheip may present the figure
 Of pure commounis, that daylie ar opprest
 Be tirrane men, quhilk settis all thair cure
 Be fals meinis to mak^e ane wrang conquest,
 In hope this present life suld euer lest ; 1255
 Bot albegilit thay will in schort tyme end,
 And efter deith to lestand panis wend.

F. 34 b. This wolf I likkin to ane schireff stout,
 Quhilk byis ane forfalt at the kingis hand,
 And hes with him ane cursit assyis about, 1260
 And dytis all the pure men vpon land.
 Fra the crownare haif lait on him his wand,
 Thocht he wer trew as euir wes sanct Iohnne,
 Slane sall he be, or with the iuge compone.

This ravin I likkin to ane fals crownair, 1265
 Quhilk hes ane portioun¹ of the inditement,
 And passis furth before the iustice air,
 All misdoaris to bring to iugement ;
 Bot luik, gif he was of ane trew intent,
 To scraip out Iohne, and write in will, or wat, 1270
 And tak ane bud at baith the parteis tat.²

Of this fals tod, of quhilk I spak befoir,
 And of this gled, quhat thay nicht signifie,
 Of thair nature, as now I speik no moir ;
 Bot of this scheip and of his cairfull cry 1275
 I sall reheirs ; for as I passit by
 Quhair that he lay, on cais I luikit down,
 And hard him mak sair lamentatioun.

¹ Cf. p. 296.² Cf. p. 296.

CHARTERIS]

'Allace,' quod he, 'this cursit consistorie,
 In middis of the winter now is maid,
 Quhen Boreas with blastis bitterlie 1280
 And hard froistis thir flouris doun can faid;
 On bankis bair now may I mak na baid.'
 And with that word in to ane Coif he Crap,
 Fra sair wedder and frostis him to hap.

Quaikand for cauld, sair murnand ay amang, 1285
 Kest vp his Ee vnto the heuinnis hicht,
 And said: 'Lord God, quhy sleipis thow sa lang?
 Walk, and discerne my cause, groundit on richt;
 Se how I am, be fraud, maistrie, and slicht,
 Peillit full bair:' and so is mony one 1290
 Now in this warld, richt wonder, wo be gone!

Se, how this cursit sone¹ of couetice,
 Loist hes baith lawtie and eik Law.
 Now few or nane will execute Iustice,
 In falt of quhome the pure man is ouerthraw. 1295
 The veritie, suppois the Iuge it knaw,
 He is so blindit with affectioun,
 But dreid, for micht, he lettis the richt ga doun.

Seis thow not, Lord, this warld ouerturnit is,
 As quha wald change gude gold in leid or tyn; 1300
 The pure is peillit; the Lord may do na mis;
 And Simonie is haldin for na syn;
 Now is he blyith with okker maist may win;
 Gentrice is slane, and pietie is ago,
 Allace, gude Lord, quhy tholis thow it so? 1305

¹ See p. 297, l. 155.

[HARLEIAN

'Allace,' quod he, 'this cursit consistorie,
 In middis of the winter now is maid, 1280
 F. 35 a. Quhen borias with blastis bitterlie
 And hard frostis thir flouris doun can faid ;
 On bankis bair now may I mak na baid.'
 And with that word in to ane coif he crap,
 Fra sair wedder and frostis him to hap. 1285

Quaikand for cauld, sair murnand ay amang,
 Kest vp his ee vnto the hevinis hicht,
 And said : 'lord god, quhy slepis thow sa lang ?
 Walk, and decerne my caus, groundit on richt ;
 Se how I am, be fraude, maistrie, and slicht, 1290
 Peillit full bair : ' and so is mony one
 Now in this warld, richt wonder, wo be gone !

Se, how this cursit sone¹ of couetice,
 Lost hes baith lawtie and eik law.
 Now few or nane will execute iustice, 1295
 In falt of quhome the pure man is ouerthraw.
 The veritie, suppois the iuge it knaw,
 He is so blindit with affectioun,
 But dreid, for nicht, he lettis the richt ga doun.

Seis thow not, lord, this warld ouerturnit is, 1300
 As quha wald change gude gold in leid or tin ;
 The pure is peillit ; the lord may do na mis ;
 And simonie is haldin for na sin ;
 []²

F. 35 b. Gentrice is slane, and pietie is ago, 1305
 Allace, gude lord, quhy tholis thow it so ?

¹ See p. 297, l. 155.² Line omitted in MS.

CHARTERIS]

Thow tholis this euin for our gret offence,
 Thow sendis vs troubill and plaigis soir,
 As hunger, derth, greit weir, or Pestilence ;
 Bot few amendis now thair lyfe thairfoir.
 We puir pepill, as now may Do no moir
 Bot pray to the, sen that we ar opprest
 In to this eirth, grant vs in heuin gude rest.

1310

¶ FINIS.

¶ THE TAILL OF THE LYOUN AND THE MOUS.

IN middis of Iune, that sweit seasoun,
 Quhen that fair Phebus, with his bemis bricht,
 Had dryit vp the dew fra daill and doun,
 And all the land maid with his bemis licht,
 In ane morning, betuix mid day and nicht,
 I Rais, and put all sleuth and sleip asyde,
 And to ane wod I went allone but gyde.

1315

¶ Sweit wes the smel of flouris, quhyte and reid,
 The noyes of birdis richt delitious,
 The bewis braid blomit abone my heid,
 The ground growand with gers gratious ;
 Of all plesance that place wes plenteous,
 With sweit odouris and birdis harmonie,
 The Murning Myld : my mirth wes mair for thy.

1320

1325

[HARLEIAN

Thow tholis this evin for oure grit offence,
 Thow sendis ws troubill and plaigis sore,
 As hunger, derth, grit weir, or pestilence ;
 Bot few amendis now thair lyfe thairfore.
 We puir pepte, as now may do no moir
 Bot pray to the, sen thát we ar opprest
 In to this eirth, grant ws in hevin gude rest.

1310

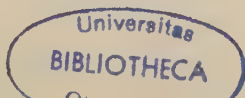
Finis.

F. 36 a.

The taill of the Lpoun and the Mous.

In middis of Iune, that sweit seasoun,
 Quhen that fair phebus, *wit~~h~~* his bemis bricht, 1315
 Had dryit vp the dew fra daill and doun,
 And all the land maid *wit~~h~~* his bemis licht,
 In ane morning, betuix midday and nicht,
 I rais, and put all sleip and sleuth aside,
 And to ane wod I went allone but gide. 1320

Sweit was the smell of flouris, quhite and reid,
 The noyes of birdis richt delitious,
 The bewis braid blomit abone my heid,
 The ground growand with gres gracious ;
 Of all plesance that place wes plentious, 1325
 With sweit odouris and birdis harmony,
 The morning myld : my mirth wes mair for thy.



CHARTERIS]

The Rosis reid arrayit on Rone and Ryce,
 The Prymeros, and the Purpour Uiola ;
 To heir it wes ane poynt of Paradice,
 Sic Mirth the Mauis and the Merle couth ma. 1330
 The blossommis blyith brak vp on bank and bra ;
 The smell of Herbis and of foullis cry
 Contending quha suld haif the victorie.

Me to conserue than fra the sonis heit,
 Under the schadow of ane Hawthorne grene, 1335
 I lenit doun amang the flouris sweit,
 Syne cled my heid, and closit baith my Ene
 On sleip I fell amang thir bewis bene,
 And in my dreame me thocht come throw the schaw
 The fairest man that euer before I saw. 1340

His gowne wes of ane claith als quhyte as milk ;
 His Chemeis was of Chambelote Purpour Broun ;
 His hude of Scarlet, bordowrit weill with silk,
 On hekillit wyis, vntill his girdill doun ;
 His Bonat round, and of the auld fassoun ; 1345
 His heid wes quhyte ; his Ene wes greit and gray,
 With lokker hair, quhilk ouer his schulderis lay.

¶ Ane Roll of paper in his hand he bair ;
 Ane Swannis pen stikand vnder his eir ;
 Ane Inkhorne, with ane prettie gilt Pennair, 1350
 Ane bag of silk, all at his belt can beir :
 Thus was he gudlie graithit in his geir.
 Of stature large, and with ane feirfull face :
 Euin quhair I lay he come ane sturdie pace,

[HARLEIAN

The rosis reid arrayit on rone and rýce,
 The prymerois, and the purpour violat bla ;
 To heir it was ane point of parradice, 1330
 Sic mirth the maueis and the merle couth ma.
 The blossomis blith brak vp on bank and bra ;
 The smell of herbis and of foulis cry
 Contending quha suld haif the victory.

F. 36 ð. Me to conserue than fra the sonis heit, 1335
 Vnder the schaddow of ane hawthorne grene,
 I lenit doun amang the flouris sweit,
 Syne cled my heid, and closit baith my ene.
 One sleip I fell amang thir bewis bene,
 And in my dreame me thocht come throw the schaw 1340
 The fairest man that euer before I saw.

His gown wes of ane claith als quhite as milk ;
 His chemeis was of chambelet pourpour broun ;
 His hude of skarlate, bordourit weill *wit*h silk,
 On hekillit wyis, vtill his girdill doun ; 1345
 His bonet round, and of the auld fassoun ;
 His beird wes quhite ; his ene wes grit and gray,
 With lokker hair, quhilk ouer his schulderis lay.

Ane roll of paper in his hand he bair ;
 Ane swaⁿⁿis pen stikkand vnder his eir ; 1350
 Ane Inkhorne, *wit*h ane prettie gilt pennair,
 Ane bag of silk, all at his belt can beir :
 Thus was he gudlie grathit in his geir.
 Of stature large, and with ane feirfull face :
 Evin quhair I lay he come ane sturdy pace, 1355

CHARTERIS]

And said, 'God speid, my sone'; and I wes fane 1355
 Of that couth word, and of his cumpanie;
 With reuerence I salusit him agane:
 'Welcome, Father'; and he sat doun me by.
 'Displeis 3ow not, my gude maister, thocht I
 Demand 3our birth, 3our facultie, and name, 1360
 Quhy 3e come heir, or quhair 3e dwell at hame.'

'My sone,' said he, 'I am of gentill blude;
 My natiue land is Rome withouttin nay;
 And in *that*¹ Towne first to the Sculis I 3ude,
 In Ciuile Law studyit full mony ane day; 1365
 And now my winning is in Hevin for ay:
 Esope I hecht; my wryting and my werk
 Is couth and kend to mony cunning Clerk.'²

'O Maister Esope, Poet Laureate,
 God wait, 3e ar full deir welcum to me; 1370
 Ar 3e not he that all thir Fabillis wrait,
 Quhilk in effect, suppois thay fenzeit be,
 Ar full of prudence and moralitie?'
 'Fair sone,' said he, 'I am the samin man.'
 God wait, gif that my hert wes merie than. 1375

¶ I said, 'Esope, my Maister Uenerabill,
 I 3ow beseik hartlie, for cheritie,
 3e wald not disdayne to tell ane prettie Fabill,
 Concludand with ane gude Moralitye.'
 Schaikand his heid, he said: 'my sone lat be, 1380
 For quhat is it worth to tell ane fenzeit taill,
 Quhen haly preiching may na thing auairl?

¹ Orig. 'the.'² Lines 1367 and 1368 are transposed in orig.

[HARLEIAN

And said, 'god speid, my sone'; and I was fane
 F. 37 a. Of that couth word, and of his *cumpany*;
 With reuerence I salust him agane:
 'Welcome, father'; & he sat doun me by.
 'Displeis 3ow not, my gude maister, *thocht* I 1360
 Demand 3our birth, 3our facultie, and name,
 Quhy 3e come heir, or quhair 3e dwell at hame.'

'My sone,' said he, 'I am of gentill blude;
 My natiue land is Rome withouttin nay;
 And in that toun first to the scolis I 3ude, 1365
 In ciuile law studijt full mony ane day;
 And now my *wynning* is in hevin for ay:
 Esope I hecht; my writing and my werk
 Is couth and kend to mony *cunning* clerk.'

'O maister esope, poete lawriate, 1370
 God wait, 3e ar full deir welcome to me;
 Ar 3e not he that all thir fabillis wrait,
 Quhilk in effect, suppois thay *feinzeit* be,
 Ar full of prudence and moralitie?'
 'Fair sone,' said he, 'I am the samyn man.' 1375
 God wait, gif that my hert wes merie than.

I said, 'esope, my maister venerable,
 I 3ow beseik hertlie, for charitie,
 F. 37 b. 3e wald not disdane to tell ane prettie fabill,
 Concludand with ane guid moralitie.' 1380
 Schaikand his heid, he said: 'my sone lat be,
 For quhat is it wirth to tell ane *feinzeit* taill,
 Quhen halie preiching may na thing awaill?

CHARTERIS]

'Now in this warld, me think, richt few or nane
 To Goddis worde that hes deuotioun ;
 The eir is deif, the hart is hard as stane, 1385
 Now oppin sin without correctioun,
 The eir Inclynand to the eirth ay down ;
 Sa roustie is the warld with canker blak,
 That now my taillis may lytill succour mak.'

'3it,¹ gentill Schir,' said I, 'for my requeist, 1390
 Not to displeis 3our Fatherheid, I pray,
 Under the figure of ane brutall beist,
 Ane morall Fabill 3e wald denze to say :
 Quha wait nor I may leir and beir away
 Sum thing thairby heirefter may auail ?' 1395
 'I grant,' quod he, and thus begouth ane taill.

¶ The end of the Prolog and beginnis
 the Taill :

ANE LYOUN AT HIS Pray verray foirrur,
 To recreat his limmis and to rest,
 Beikand his breist and bellie at the Sone,
 Under ane tre lay in the fair Forrest ; 1400
 Swa come ane trip of Myis out of thair nest,
 Rycht tait and trig, all dansand in ane gyis,
 And ouer the Lyoun th[a]y dansit twyis or thryis.

¶ He lay so still, the Myis wes not effeird,
 Bot to and fro out ouer him tuke thair trace ; 1405
 Sum tirllit at the Campis of his beird,
 Sum spairit not to claw him on the face ;
 Merie and glaid thus dansit thay ane space,
 Till at the last the Nobill Lyoun woke,
 And with his pow the maister Mous he tuke. 1410

¹ Orig. '3is.'

[HARLEIAN

'Now in this warld, me think, richt few or nane
 To goddis worde that hes deuotioun ; 1385
 The air is deif, the hart is hard as stane,
 Now oppin sin without correctioun,
 The hart inclynand to the irth ay down ;
 Sa roustit is the warld with canker blak,
 That now my taillis may litill succour mak.' 1390

'3it, gentill schir,' said I, 'for my requeist,
 Not to displeis 3our father heid, I pray,
 Vnder the figure of a brutale beist,
 Ane morale fabill 3e wald den3e to say : 1395
 Quha wait nor I may leir and beir away
 Sum thing thairby heirefter may auail?'
 'I grant,' quod he, and thus begouth ane taill.

The end of the prolog & beginnis
 the taill:

F. 38 a. **A**ne Lyoune at his pray wery¹ foirrun,
 To recreat his limmis and to rest,
 Beikand his breist and belly at the sun, 1400
 Vnder ane tre lay in the fair forrest ;
 Sua come ane trip of myis out of thair nest,
 Richt tait and trig, all dansand in ane gyis,
 And ouer the lioun lansit twyis or thryis.

 He lay sa still, the myis was not effeird, 1405
 Bot to and fra out ouer him tuik thair trace ;
 Sum tirlit at the campis of his beird,
 Sum sparit not to claw him on the face ;
 Merie and glaid thus dansit thay ane space,
 Till at the last the noble lyoune woke, 1410
 And with his pow the maister mous he tuke.

¹ MS. 'war.'

CHARTERIS]

Scho gaif ane cry, and all the laif agast
 Thair dansing left, and hid thame heir and thair;
 Scho that wes tane cryit and weipit fast,
 And said allace oftymes that scho come thair:
 ‘Now am I tane ane wofull presonair, 1415
 And for my gilt traistis Incontinent
 Of lyfe and deith to thoill the Iugement.’

Than spak the Lyoun to that cairfull Mous:
 ‘Thow Catue wretche, and vile vnworthie thing,
 Ouer malapert and eik presumptuous 1420
 Thow wes, to mak out ouer me thy tripping.
 Knew thow not weill I wes baith Lord and King
 Of beistis all?’ ‘3es,’ quod the Mous, ‘I know;
 Bot I misknew, becaus 3e lay so law.

‘Lord! I beseik thy Kinglie Royaltie, 1425
 Heir quhat I say, and tak in pacience;
 Consider first my simple pouertie,
 And syne thy mychtie hie Magnificence;
 Se als how thingis done of Negligence,
 Nouthur of malice nor of presumptioun, 1430
 The rather suld haif grace and remissioun.

¶ ‘We wer repleit and had greit abundance
 Of alkin thingis, sic as to vs effeird;
 The sweit sesoun prouokit vs to dance,
 And mak sic mirth as nature to vs leird. 1435
 3e lay sa still and law vpon the eird
 That, be my saull, we weind 3e had bene deid,
 Ellis wald we not haif dancit ouer 3our heid.’

[HARLEIAN

Scho gaif ane cry, and all the laif agast
 Thair dansing left, and hid thame sone all quhair ;
 Scho that wes tane cryit and weipit fast,
 And said allace oftymes that scho come thair : 1415
 ‘ Now am I tane ane wofull presonair,
 And for my gilt traistis incontinent
 Of lyfe and deith to thole the iugement.’

Than spak the lioun to that cairfull mous :
 F. 38 b. ‘ Thow catiue wretche, and vile vnworthie thing, 1420
 Ouer malapart and eik presumptuous
 Thow wes, to mak out ouer me thy tripping.
 Knew¹ thow not weill I was baith lord and king
 Of beistis all ? ’ ‘ 3is,’ quod the mous, ‘ I knaw ;
 Bot I misknew, becaus 3e lay so law. 1425

‘ Lord ! I beseik thy kinglie royaltie,
 Heir quhat I say, and tak in patience ;
 Considder first my simpfe pouertie,
 And syne thy michtie hie magnificence ;
 Se als how thingis done of negligence, 1430
 Nouthur of malice nor of presumptioun,
 The rather suld haif grace and remissioun.

‘ We war repleit and had grit abundance
 Of all kin thingis, sic as to ws effeird ;
 The sweit sesoun prouokit ws to dance, 1435
 And mak sic mirth as nature to ws leird.
 3e lay sa still and law vpoun the eird
 That, be my saule, we wenid 3e had bene deid,
 Ellis wald we not haif dancit ouer 3our heid.’

¹ MS. ‘Qnew.’

CHARTERIS]

'Thy fals excuse,' the Lyoun said agane,
 'Sall not auaiill ane myte, I vndersta ; 1440
 I put the cace, I had bene deid or slane,
 And syne my skyn bene stoppit full of stra,
 Thocht thou had found my figure lyand swa,
 Because it bair the prent of my persoun,
 Thow suld for feir on kneis haif fallin doun. 1445

'For thy trespass thou sall mak na defence,
 My Nobill persoun thus to vilipend ;
 Of thy feiris, nor thy awin negligence,
 For to excuse, thou can na caus pretend ;
 Thairfoir thou suffer sall ane schamefull end, 1450
 And deith, sic as to tressoun is decreit,
 Upon the Gallous hangit be the feit.'

'Na, mercie, Lord, at thy gentrice I ase,
 As thou art King of beistis Coronat,
 Sober thy wraith, and let it ouerpas, 1455
 And mak thy mynd to mercy Inclynat.
 I grant offence is done to thyne estait,
 Qubairfoir I worthie am to suffer deid,
 Bot gif thy cumlie mēcy reik remeid.

'In euerie Iuge mercy and reuth suld be 1460
 As Assessouris, and collateral ;
 Without mercy Iustice is crueltie,
 As said is in the Lawis speciall :
 Quhen Rigour sittis in the Tribunall,
 The equitie of Law quha may sustene ? 1465
 Richt few or nane, but mercie gang betwene.

[HARLEIAN

'Thy fals excuse,' the lioun said agane, 1440
 F. 39 a. 'Sall not awaill ane myte, I vndera;
 I put the cace, I had bene deid or slane,
 And syne my skin bene stoppit full of stra,
 Thocht thou had found my figure liand swa,
 Becaus it bare the prent of my persoun, 1445
 Thow suld for feir on kneis haif fallin doun.

'For thy trespass thou can mak na defence,
 My noble persoun thus to vilipend;
 Of thy feiris, nor thy awin negligence,
 For to excuse, thou can na caus pretend; 1450
 Thairfoir thou suffer sall ane schamefull end,
 And deith, sic as to tressoun is decreit,
 Vpon the gallous harlit be the feit.'

'Na, mercie, lord, at thy gentrice I ase,
 As thou art king of beistis coronate, 1455
 Sober thy wraith, and let it ouerpas,
 And mak thy mynd to mercy inclynate.
 I grant offence is done to thine estait,
 Quhairfore I wirthie am to suffer deid,
 Bot gif thy kinglie mercy reik remeid. 1460

'In euerie iuge mercy and truth suld be
 F. 39 b. As assessouris, and collaterall;
 Without mercy iustice is crueltie,
 As said is in the lawis speciall:
 Quhen rigour sittis in the tribunale, 1465
 The equitie of law quha may sustene?
 Richt few or nane, but mercy gang betwene.

CHARTERIS]

¶ ' Alswa 3e knaw the honour Triumphall
 Of all Uictour vpon the strenth dependis
 Of his compair, quhilk manlie in battell
 Throw Ieopardie of weir lang defendis. 1470
 Quhat price or louing, quhen the battell endis,
 Is said of him that ouercummis ane man,
 Him to defend quhilk nouthur may nor can?

' Ane thousand Myis to kill, and eik deuoir,
 Is lytill manheid to ane strang lyoun ; 1475
 Full lytill worschip haif 3e wyn thairfoir,
 To quhais strenth is na comparisoun ;
 It will degraid sum part of 3our renoun
 To sla ane Mous, quhilk may mak na defence,
 Bot askand mercie at 3our excellence. 1480

' Also it semes not 3our Celsitude,
 Quhilk vsis daylie meittis delitious,
 To fyle 3our teith or lippis with my blude,
 Quhilk to 3our stomok is contagious ;
 Unhailsum meit is of ane sarie Mous, 1485
 And that namelie vntill ane strang Lyoun,
 Uont till be fed with gentill Uennisoun.

' My lyfe is lytill worth, my deith is les,
 3it and I leif, I may peraduenture
 Supple 3our hienes beand in distres ; 1490
 For oft is sene ane man of small stature
 Reskewit hes ane Lord of hie honour,
 Keipit that wes in point to be ouerthrawin
 Throw misfortune : sic cace may be 3our awin.'

[HARLEIAN

' Alswa 3e knaw the honour triumphall
 Of all victour vpoun the strenth dependis
 Of his conqueist, quhilk manlie in battell 1470
 Throw ieoperdie of weir lang defendis.
 Quhat price or louing, quhen the battell endis,
 Is said of him that ouercumis ane man,
 Him to defend quhilk nouthir may nor can?

' Ane thousand myis to kill, and eik deuoir, 1475
 Is litill manheid to ane strang lioun ;
 Full litill worschip haif 3e win thairfoir,
 To quhais strenth is na comparisoun ;
 It will degraid sum pairt of 3our renoun
 To slay ane mous, quhilk may mak na defence, 1480
 Bot askand mercie at 3our excellence.

' Also it simes not 3our celsitude,
 F. 40 a. Quhilk vsis dalie meittis delitious,
 To fyle 3our lippis and teith w^{it}h my blude,
 Quhilk to 3our stomok is contagious ; 1485
 Vnhailsum meit is of ane sarie mous,
 And that namelie vnto ane strang lioun,
 Wont till be fed with gentill vennesoun.

' My lyfe is litill worth, my deith is les,
 3it and I leif, I may peraduentour 1490
 Supplie 3our hienes beand in distres ;
 For oft is sene ane man of small stature
 Reskewit hes ane lord of hie honour,
 Keipit that wes in point to be ouerthrawn
 Throw misfortoun : sic cace may be 3our awin.' 1495

CHARTERIS]

¶ Quhen this wes said, the Lyoun his language 1495
 Paissit, and thocht according to ressoun,
 And gart mercie his cruell Ire asswage,
 And to the Mous grantit Remissioun;
 Oppinnit his Poll, and scho on kneis fell doun,
 And baith hir handis vnto the heuin vpheld, 1500
 Cryand: 'Almychtie God mot 3ow for3eild!'

Quhen scho wes gone, the Lyoun held to hunt,
 For he had nocht, bot leuit on his Pray,
 And slew baith tayme and wyld, as he wes wont,
 And in the cuntrie maid ane greit deray; 1505
 Till at the last the pepil fand the way
 This cruell Lyoun how that thay mycht tak:
 Of Hempyrn cordis strang Nettis couth thay mak.

And in ane Rod, quhair he wes wont to ryn,
 With Raipis rude fra tre to tre it band; 1510
 Syne kest ane Range on raw the woid within,
 With hornis blast, and Kennettis fast calland.
 The Lyoun fled, and, throw the Ron rynnand,
 Fell in the Net, and hankit fute and heid;
 For all his strenth he couth mak na remeid. 1515

Uelterand about with hiddeous rummissing,
 Quhyle to, quhyle fra, quhill he mycht succour get;
 Bot all in vane, it vailzeit him na thing;
 The mair he flang, the faster wes the Net;
 The Raipis rude wes sa about him knet, 1520
 On euerilk syde, that succour saw he nane;
 Bot still lyand and murnand maid his mane.

[HARLEIAN

Quhen this wes said, the lioun his language
 Paissit, and thocht according to ressoun,
 And gart mercie his cruell ire asswage,
 And to the mous grantit remissioun;
 Oppynnit his pow, and scho on kneis fell doun, 1500
 And baith hir handis vnto the heuin vpheid,
 Cryand: 'almichtie god mot 3ow for3eild!'

Quhen scho was gone, the lioun held to hunt,
 For he had nocht, bot leuit on his pray,
 F. 40 b. And slew baith tayme and wyld, as he wes wunt, 1505
 And in the cuntrie maid a grit deray;
 Till at the last the pepill fand the way
 This cruell lioun how that thay nicht tak:
 Of hempin cordis strang nettis couth thay mak.

And in þe rod, quhair he was wont to rin, 1510
 With raipis rude fra tre to tre it band;
 Syne kest ane range on raw the wod *wit*hin,
 With hornis blast, and kennetis fast calland.
 The lioun fled, and, throw the rone *ry*nand,
 Fell in the net, and hankit fute and heid; 1515
 For all his strenth he couth mak na remeid.

Welterand about with hiddious rummissing,
 Quhile to, quhile fra, quhill he nicht succour get;
 Bot all in vane, it vailzeit him na thing;
 The mair he flang, the faster was the net; 1520
 The raipis rude was sa about him plet,
 On euerie side, that succour saw he none;
 Bot still liand and murnand maid his mone.

CHARTERIS]

❧ ‘O lamit Lyoun, liggand heir sa law,
 Quhair is the mycht of thy Magnificence,
 Of quhome all brutall beist in eird stude aw, 1525
 And dred to luke vpon thy Excellence?
 But hoip or help, but succour or defence,
 In bandis strang heir man I ly, allace!
 Till I be slane, I se nane vther grace.

‘Thair is na wy that will my harmis wreik, 1530
 Nor creature do confort to my Croun.
 Quha sall me bute? quha sall my bandis brek?
 Quha sall me put fra pane of this Presoun?’
 Be he had maid this lamentatioun,
 Throw auenture the lytill Mous come neir, 1535
 And of the Lyoun hard the pietuous beir.

And suddandlie it come in till hir mynd
 That it suld be the Lyoun did hir grace,
 And said, ‘now wer I fals and richt vnkynd,
 Bot gif I quit sum part of thy gentrice 1540
 Thow did to me:’ and on this way scho gais
 To hir fellowis, and on thame fast can cry,
 ‘Cum help, cum help!’ and thay come all in hy.

‘Lo,’ quod the Mous, ‘this is the samin Lyoun
 That grantit grace to me quhen I wes tane; 1545
 And now is fast heir bundin in Presoun,
 Brekand his hart with sair murning and mane;
 Bot we him help, of succour wait he nane;
 Cum help to quyte ane gude turne for ane vther, 1549
 Go, lous him sone:’ and thay said, ‘ȝea, gude brother.’

[HARLEIAN

'O lamit lioun, liggand heir sa law,
 Quhair is the micht of thy magnificence,
 Of quhome all brutall beistis in eird stuid aw,

1525

F. 41 a. And dreid to luik vpoun thy excellence?

But hoip or help, but succour or defence,
 In bandis strang heir man I ly, allace!
 Till I be slane, I se nane vther grace.

1530

'Thair is na wy that will my harmes wreik,
 Nor creature do confort to my croun.
 Quha sall me bute? quha sall my bandis breke?
 Quha sall me put fra pane of this presoun?'
 Be he had maid this lamentatioun,
 Throw auenture the litill mous come neir,
 And of the lioun hard the pietuous beir.

1535

And suddanlie it come in to hir mynd
 That it suld be the lioun did hir grace,
 And said, 'now wer I fals and richt vnkynd,
 Bot gif I quite sum pairt of thy gentrace
 Thow did to me:' and on this wayis scho gais
 To hir fellowis, and on thame fast can cry,
 'Cum help, cum help!' and thay come all in hy.

1540

'Lo,' quod the mouß, 'this is the samyn lioun
 That grantit grace to me quhen I was tane;
 And now is fast heir bundin in presoun,
 Brekand his hart with sair murning and mane;

1545

F. 41 b. Bot we him help, of succour wait he nane;

Cum help to quit ane gude turne for ane vther,
 Go, lous him sone:' and thay said, '3e, gude brother.'

1550

CHARTERIS]

¶ They tuke na knyfe, thair teith wes scharp aneuch.
 To se that sicht, forsuith it wes greit wonder,
 How that thay ran amang the raipis teuch;
 Befoir, behind, sum 3eid about, sum vnder,
 And schuir the raipis of the Mast in schunder; 1555
 Syne bad him ryse; and he start vp anone,
 And thankit thame; syne on his way is gone.

Now is the Lyoun fre of all danger,
 Lous and Deliuierit to his libertie,
 Be lytill beistis of ane small power, 1560
 As 3e haif hard, becaus he had pietie.
 Quod I, 'Maister, is thair ane moralitie
 In this Fabill?' '3ea, sone,' he said, 'richt gude.'—
 'I pray 3ow, Schir,' quod I, '3e wald conclude.'

MORALITAS.

AS I SUPPOSE, THIS mychtie gay Lyoun 1565
 May signifie ane Prince, or Empriour,¹
 Ane Potestate, or 3it ane king with Croun,
 Quhilk suld be walkrife gyde and Gouvernour
 Of his pepill, that takis na labour
 To reule and steir the land, and Iustice keip, 1570
 Bot lyis still in lustis, sleuth, and sleip.

The fair Forrest with leuis lowne and le,
 With foullis sang, and flouris ferlie sweit,
 Is bot the warld and his prosperitie,
 As fals plesance myngit with cair repleit. 1575
 Rycht as the Rois with frost and winter weit
 Faidis, swa dois the warld, and thame desauis
 Quhilk in thair lustis maist confidence hauis.

¹ In the original this line is fourth in the stanza.

[HARLEIAN

Thay tuik na knyfe, thair teith was scharpe aneuch.
 To se that sicht, forsuith it was grit wounder,
 How that thay ran amang the raipis tewch ;
 Befoir, behind, sum gaid about, sum vnder, 1555
 And schuir the raipis of the net in schunder ;
 Syne bad him ryis ; and he start vp anone,
 And thankit thame ; syne on his way is gone.

Now is the lioun fre of all danger,
 Lous and deliuerit to his libertie, 1560
 Be litill beistis of ane small power,
 As 3e haif hard, becaus he had pitie.
 Quod I, 'maister, is thair ane moralitie
 In this fabill ?' '3e, sone,' he said, 'richt guid.'—
 'I pray 3ow, schir,' quod I, '3e wald conclude.' 1565

Finis.

F. 42 a.

Moralitas.

As I suppose, this michtie gay lioun
 May signifie ane prince, or empriour,
 Ane potestate, or 3it ane king *wit*h croun,
 Quhilk suld be walkryfe gide and gouernour
 Of his pepill, that takis na labour 1570
 To reule and steir the land, and iustice keip,
 Bot lyis still in lustis, sleuth, and sleip.

The fair forest *wit*h leuis lowne and lie,
*Wit*h foullis sang, and flouris ferlie sweit,
 Is bot the warld and his prosperitie, 1575
 As fals plesance mingit *wit*h cair repleit.
 Richt as the rois with frost and winter weit
 Faidis, swa dois the warld, and thame desauis
 Quhilk in thair lustis maist confidence hauis.

CHARTERIS]

Thir lytill Myis ar bot the commountie,
 Uantoun, vnwyse, without correctioun : 1580
 Thair Lordis and Princis quhen that thay se
 Of Iustice mak nane executioun,
 Thay dreid na thing to mak Rebellioun,
 And disobey, for quhy thay stand nane aw,
 That garris thame thair Soueranis misknaw. 1585

Be this Fabill 3e Lordis of Prudence
 May consider the vertew of Pietie ;
 And to remit sumtyme ane greit offence,
 And mitigate with mercy crueltie :
 Oftymis is sene ane man of small degre 1590
 Hes quit ane turne baith for gude and euill,
 As Lord hes done Rigour, or grace him till.

Quha wait how sone ane Lord of greit Renoun,
 Rolland in warldlie lust and vane plesance,
 May be ouerthrawin, destroyit, and put doun 1595
 Throw fals fortoun, quhilk of all variance
 Is haill maistres, and leidar of the dance
 Till Iniust men, and blindis thame so soir,
 That thay na perrell can prouyde befoir.

Thir cruell men, that stentit hes the Net, 1600
 In quhilk the Lyoun suddandlie wes tane,
 Uaittit alway amendis for to get,
 For hurt men wrytis in the Marbill stane.
 Mair till expound as now I let allane,
 Bot king and Lord may weill wit quhat I mene ; 1605
 Figure heirof oftymis hes bene sene.

[HARLEIAN

Thir litill myis ar bot the commountie, 1580
 Wantoun, wnwyse, without correctioun :
 Thair lordis and princes quhen that thay se
 Of iustice mak na executioun,
 Thay dreid na thing to mak rebelloun,
 And disobey, for quhy thay stand nane aw, 1585
 That garris thame thair soueranis misknaw.

F. 42 b. Be this fabill 3e lordis of prudence
 May considder the vertue of pietie ;
 And to remit sum tyme ane grit offence,
 And mitigate with mercy crueltie : 1590
 Of tymes is sene ane man of small degrie
 Hes quit ane kinbute baith of gude and ill,
 As lordis hes done rigour, and grace him till.

Quha wait how sone ane lord of grit renoun,
 Rowand in warldlie wit ¹ and vane plesance, 1595
 May be ouerthrawin, distroyit, and put down
 Throw fals fortoun, quhilk of all variencie
 Is haill maistres, and leidare of the dance
 Till vniust men, and blindis thame so soir,
 That thay na perrell can prouide befoir. 1600

Thir rurall men, that stentit hes the net,
 In quhilk the lioun suddanelie was tane,
 Waittit alway amendis for to get,
 For hurt men writis in the merbill stane.
 Mair till expone as now I let allane, 1605
 Bot king and lord may weill wit quhat I mene ;
 Figure heirof oftymes hes bene sene.

¹ Cf. pp. 118, 314.

CHARTERIS]

Quhen this wes said, quod Esope : ' my fair child,
 I 3ow beseik and all men for to pray
 That tressoun of this cuntrie be exyld,
 And Iustice Regne, and Lordis keip thair fay 1610
 Unto thair Souerane Lord, baith nicht and day.'
 And with that word he vanist, and I woke;
 Syne throw the Schaw my Iourney hamewart tuke.

FINIS.

❧ THE PREICHING OF THE SWALLOW.

THE HIE PRUDENCE, and wirking meruelous,
 The profound wit of God omnipotent 1615
 Is sa perfyte, and sa Ingenious,
 Excellent far all mannis Iugement;
 For quhy to him all thing is ay present,
 Richt as it is, or ony tyme sall be,
 Befoir the sicht of his Diuinitie. 1620

Thairfoir our Saull with Sensualitie
 So fetterit is in presoun Corporall,
 We may not cleirlye vnderstand nor se
 God as he is, nor thingis¹ Celestiall :
 Our mirk and deidle corps Naturall¹ 1625
 Blindis the Spirituall operatioun,
 Lyke as ane man wer bundin in presoun.

¹ Cf. p. 231.

[HARLEIAN

Quhen this was said, quod esope : ' my fair childe,
 F. 43 a. I the beseik and all men for to pray
 That tressoun of this cuntrie be exyld, 1610
 And iustice ring, and lordis keip thair fay
 Vnto thair souerane king, baith nycht and day.'
 And with that word he vanist, and I woke ;
 Syne throw the schaw my iurnay hamewart tuik.

Endis the moralitie.

F. 43 b.

The preiching of the Swallow.

The bie prudence, and wirking meruelous, 1615
 The profound wit of god omnipotent
 Is sa perfite, and sa ingenious,
 Excellent fer all mannis Iugement ;
 For quhy to him all thing is ay present,
 Richt as it is, or ony tyme salbe, 1620
 Befoir the sicht of his diuinitie.

Thairfoir oure saule with sensualitie
 So fetterit is in presoun corporale,
 We may not cleirly vnderstand nor sie
 God as he is, nor thingis¹ celestiall : 1625
 F. 44 a. Oure mirk and deidle corps naturall¹
 Blindis the spirituall operatioun,
 Like as ane man war bundin in presoun.

¹ Cf. p. 231.

CHARTERIS]

- ¶ In Metaphisik Aristotell sayis
 That manniss Saul is lyke ane Bakkis Ee,
 Quhilk lurkis still als lang as licht of day is, 1630
 And in the gloming cummis furth to fle;
 Hir Ene ar waik, the Sone scho may not se:
 Sa is our Saull with fantasie opprest,
 To know the thingis in nature manifest.
- For God is in his power Infinite, 1635
 And manniss Saull is febill and ouer small,
 Of vnderstanding waik and imperfite,
 To comprehend him that contenis all.
 Nor suld presume, be ressoun naturall,
 To seirche the secreitties of the Trinitie, 1640
 Bot trow fermelie, and lat all ressoun be.
- ¶ 3it neuertheles we may haif knowlegeing
 Of God almychtie be his Creaturis,
 That he is gude, fair, wyis, and bening;
 Exempill tak be thir Iolie flouris, 1645
 Rycht sweit of smell and plesant of colouris,
 Sum grene, sum blew, sum purpoure, quhyte, & reid,
 This distribute be gift of his Godheid.
- The firmament payntit with sternis cleir,
 Frome eist to west rolland in cirkill round, 1650
 And euerilk Planet in his proper Spheir,
 In mouing makand Harmonie and sound;
 The Fyre, the Air, the watter, and the ground—
 Till vnderstand it is aneuch, I wis,
 That God in all his werkis wittie is. 1655

[HARLEIAN

In metaphisik aristotell sayis
 That mann^sis saule is like ane bakkis ee, 1630
 Quhilk lurkis still als lang as licht of day is,
 And in the gloming cum^sis furth to flie ;
 Hir ene ar waik, the sone scho may not se :
 Sa is oure saule with fantisie opprest,
 To know the thingis in nature manifest. 1635

For god is in his poware infinite,
 And mann^sis saule is febill and ouer small,
 Of vnderstanding waik and imperfite,
 To comprehend him that contenis all.
 Nane suld presume, be reasoun naturall, 1640
 To seirche the secreities of the trinitie,
 Bot trow fermelie, and lat all ressoun be.

3it neuertheles we may haif knowleging
 Of god almichtie be his creatouris,
 That he is guid, fair, wyse, and beninge ; 1645
 Exempill tak be thir Iolie flouris,
 Richt sweit of smell and plesand of colouris,
 Sum grene, sum blew, sum purpour, quhite, and reid,

F. 44 b. This distribute be gift of his godheid.

The firmament paintit with starnis cleir, 1650
 Frome eist to west rolland in cirkill round,
 And euerie planet in his proper spheir,
 In moving makand harmonie and sound ;
 The fyre, the air, the watter, and the ground—
 Till vnderstand it is aneuch, I wis, 1655
 That god in all his werkis wittie is.

CHARTERIS]

Luke weill the fische that swimmis in the se ;
 Luke weill in eirth all kynd of bestial ;
 The foullis fair, sa forcelie thay fle,
 Scheddand the air with pennis greit and small ;
 Syne luke to man, that he maid last of all, 1660
 Lyke to his Image and his similitude :
 Be thir we knaw that God is fair and gude.

All creature he maid for the behufe
 Of man, and to his supportatioun
 In to this eirth, baith vnder and abufe, 1665
 In number, wecht, and dew proportioun ;
 The difference of tyme, and ilk seasoun,
 Concordand till oure oportunitie,
 As daylie be experience we may se.

¶ The Somer with his Iolie mantill grene, 1670
 With flouris fair furrit on euerilk fent,
 Quhilk Flora Goddes, of the flouris Quene,
 Hes to that Lord as for his seasoun lent,
 And Phebus with his goldin bemis gent
 Hes purfellit and payntit plesandlie, 1675
 With heit and moysture stilland from the sky.

Syne Haruest hait, quhen Ceres that Goddes
 Hir barnis bewit¹ hes with abundance ;
 And Bacchus, God of wyne, renewit hes
 The tume Pyipis in Italie and France, 1680
 With wynis wicht, and liquour of plesance ;
 And *copia temporis* to fill hir horne,
 That neuer wes full of quheit nor vther corne.

¹ Orig. 'bewit.'

[HARLEIAN

Luik weill the fische that swymmis in the se ;
 Luik weill in eirth all kynd of bestiall ;
 The foullis fair, sa forcelie thay fle,
 Scheddand the air *wit* pennis grit and small ; 1660
 Syne luik to man, that he maid last of all,
 Lyke to his image and his similitude :
 Be thir we knaw that god is fair and gude.

All creture he maid for the behuif
 Of man, and to his supportatioun 1665
 In to this eirth, baith vnder and abuif,
 In number, wecht, and dew proportioun ;
 The difference of tyme, and ilk seasoun,
 Concordand till oure oppertunitie,¹
 As daylie be experience we may se. 1670

F. 45 a. The somer with his Iolie mantill grene,
 With flouris fair furrit on euerilk fent,
 Quhilk flora goddes, of the flouris quene,
 Hes to that lord as for his seasoun lent,
 And phebus with his goldin bemis gent 1675
 Hes purfellit and payntit plesandly,
 With heit and moysture stilland frome the sky.

Syne heruest hait, quhen Ceres that goddes
 Hir barnis benit hes with abundance ;
 And bachus, god of wyne, renewit hes 1680
 The tume pypeis in Italie and france,
 With wynis wicht, and liquour of plesance ;
 And *copia temporis* to fill hir horne,
 That neuer wes full of quheit nor vther corne.

¹ MS. 'oppertunitie.'

CHARTERIS]

Syne wynter wan, quhen Austerne Eolus,
 God of the wynd, with blastis boreall, 1685
 The grene garment of Somer glorious
 Hes all to rent and reuin in pecis small ;
 Than flouris fair faiddit with frost man fall,
 And birdis blyith changit thair noitis sweit
 In still murning, neir slane with snaw and sleit. 1690

The dalis deip with dubbis drownit is,
 Baith hill and holt heillit with frostis hair ;
 And bewis bene baissit bair of blis,
 Be wickit windis of the winter¹ wair.
 All wyld beistis than from the bentis bair 1695
 Drawis for dreid vnto thair dennis deip,
 Coucheand for cauld in coifis thame to keip.

¶ Syne cummis Uer, quhen winter is away,
 The Secretar of Somer with his Seill,
 Quhen Columbie vp keikis throw the clay, 1700
 Quhilk fleit wes befor with frostis fell.
 The Mauis and the Merle beginnis to mell ;
 The Lark on loft, with vther birdis small,
 Than drawis furth fra derne, ouer doun and daill.

That samin seasoun, in to ane soft morning, 1705
 Richt blyith that bitter blastis wer ago,
 Vnto the wod, to se the flouris spring,
 And heir the Maueis sing and birdis mo,
 I passit furth, syne lukit to and fro,
 To se the Soill that wes richt sessionabill, 1710
 Sappie, and to resaif all seidis abill.

¹ Orig. 'wickit.'

[HARLEIAN

Syne winter wan, quhen austerne eolus, 1685
 God of the wynd, with blastis boreall,
 The grene garment of somer glorious
 Hes altorent and revin in pecis small ;
 Than flouris fair faiddit with frost man fall,
 And birdis blyith chaingit thair noitis sweit 1690
 In still murning, neir slane with snaw and sleit.

F. 45 b. The daillis deip with dubbis drounit is,
 Baith hill and holt heillit with frostis hair ;
 And bewis bene laifit bair of blis,
 Be wickit windis of the winter wair. 1695
 All wyld beistis than frome the bentis bair
 Drawis for dreid vnto thair dennis deip,
 Couchand for cauld in coifis thame to keip.

Syne cumis ver, quhen winter is away,
 The secretar of somer with his seill, 1700
 Quhen columbie vpkeikis throw the clay,
 Quhilk fleit was before with froistis fell.
 The maueis and the merle begynnis to mell ;
 The lark on loft, with vther birdis haill,
 Than drawis furth fra¹ derne, ouer doun & daill. 1705

That samyn seasoun, in to ane soft morning,
 Richt blyith that bitter blastis wer ago,
 Vnto the wod, to se the flouris spring,
 And heir the maueis sing and birdis mo,
 I passit furth, syne luikit to and fro, 1710
 To se the soill quhilk was richt seasonable,
 Sappie, and to resaue all seidis ahte.

¹ MS. 'ouer.'

CHARTERIS]

Mouing thusgait, greit mirth I tuke in mynd,
 Of lauboraris to se the besines,
 Sum makand dyke, and sum the pleuch can wynd,
 Sum sawand seidis fast frome place to place, 1715
 The Harrowis hoppand in the saweris trace :
 It wes greit Ioy to him that lufit corne,
 To se thame laubour, baith at euin and morne.

And as I baid vnder ane bank full bene,
 In hart greitlie reiosit of that sicht, 1720
 Vnto ane hedge, vnder ane Hawthorne grene,
 Of small birdis thair come ane ferlie flicht,
 And doun belyif can on the leifis licht,
 On euerilk syde about me quhair I stude,
 Richt meruelous, ane mekill multitude. 1725

Amang the quhilk's ane Swallow loud couth cry,
 On that Hawthorne hie in the croip sittand :
 'O 3e Birdis on leiffis heir me by,
 3e sall weill knaw, and wyslie vnderstand,
 Quhair danger is or perrell appeirand ; 1730
 It is greit wisdom to prouyde befor,
 It to deuoid, for dreid it hurt 3ow moir.'

'Schir Swallow,' quod the Lark agane, & leuch,
 'Quhat haif 3e sene that causis 3ow to dreid ?' 1734
 'Se 3e 3one Churll,' quod scho, 'bezond 3one pleuch,
 Fast sawand hemp, lo se,¹ and linget seid ?
 3one lint will grow in lytill tyme in deid,
 And thairof will 3one Churll his Nettis mak,
 Under the quhilk he thinkis vs to tak.

¹ Orig. 'lose.' Cf. p. 235, l. 123.

[HARLEIAN

Mouing thus gait, grit mirth I tuik in mynd,
 Of lawboraris to se the besines,
 Sum makand dyke, and sum the pleuch can wynd, 1715
 F. 46 a. Sum sawand seidis fast frome place to place,
 The harrowis hoppand in the saweris trace :
 It wes grit ioy to him that luifit corne,
 To se thame labour, baith at evin and morne.

And as I baid vnder ane bank full bene, 1720
 In hart gritlie reioisit of that sicht,
 Vnto ane hege, vnder ane hawthorne grene,
 Of small birdis thair come ane ferlie flicht,
 And doun belyif can on the leifis licht,
 On euerie side about me quhair I stuid, 1725
 Richt meruelous, ane mekle multitude.

Amang the quhilkis ane swallow loud can cry,
 On that hawthorne hie in the crope sittand :
 'O 3e birdis on bewis heir me by,
 3e sall weill knaw, and wyselie vnderstand, 1730
 Quhair danger is or perrell apperand ;
 It is grit wisdom to prouide befoir,
 It to deuoid, for dreid it hurt 3ow moir.'

'Schir swallow,' quod the lark agane, and leuch,
 'Quhat haif 3e sene that causis 3ow to dreid ?' 1735
 'Se 3e 3one churle,' quod scho, 'be3ond 3one pleuch,
 F. 46 b. Fast sawand hemp, and gude linget seid ?
 3one lizt will grow in litill tyme indeid,
 And thairof will 3one churle his nettis mak,
 Vnder the quhilk he thinkis ws to tak, 1740

CHARTERIS]

'Thairfoir I reid we pas quhen he is gone, 1740
 At euin, and with our naillis scharp and small
 Out of the eirth scraip we 3one seid anone,
 And eit it vp ; for, gif it growis, we sall
 Haif caus to weip heirefter ane and all :
 Se we remeid thairfoir furth with Instante, 1745
Nam leuius ledit quicquid preuidimus¹ ante.

'For Clerkis sayis it is nocht sufficient
 To considder that is befoir thyne Ee ;
 Bot prudence is ane inwart Argument,
 That garris ane man prouyde and foirse 1750
 Quhat gude, quhat euill is liklie for to be
 Of euerilk thing euin at the finall end,
 And swa fra perrell the better him defend.'

The Lark, lauchand, þe Swallow this couth scorne,
 And said, 'scho fischit lang befoir the Net ; 1755
 The barne is eith to busk that is vnborne ;
 All growis nocht that in the ground is set ;
 The nek to stoup, quhen it the straik sall get,
 Is sone aneuch ; deith on the fayest fall.'—
 Thus scornit thay the Swallow ane and all. 1760

¶ Despying thus hir helthsum document,
 The foullis ferlie tuke thair flicht anone ;
 Sum with ane bir thay braidit ouer the bent,
 And sum agane ar to the grene woid gone.
 Upon the land, quhair I wes left allone, 1765
 I tuke my club, and hamewart couth I carie,
 Swa ferliand, as I had sene ane farie.

¹ Orig. 'preuiuiumus.'

[HARLEIAN

'Thairfoir I reid we pas quhen he is gone,
 At evin, and with oure naillis scharpe and small¹
 Out of the eirth scrape we 3one seid anone,
 And eit it vp ; for, gif it growis, we sall
 Haue caus to weip heirefter ane and all : 1745
 Se we remeid thairfoir w^{it}h instante,
 Nam lenius ledit quicquid praeuidimus ante.

'For clerkis sayis it is not sufficient
 To considder that is before thine ee ;
 Bot prudence is ane inwart argument, 1750
 That garris ane man prouide and forese
 Quhat guid, quhat euill is liklie for to be,
 Of euerie thing behald the finell end,
 And swa fra perrell the better him defend.'

The lark, lauchand, the swallow this couth scorne, 1755
 And said, 'scho fischit lang before the net ;
 The barne is eith to busk that is vnborne ;
 F. 47 a. All growis not that in the ground is set ;
 The nek to stoup, quhen it the straik sall get,
 Is sone aneuch ; deith on the fayest fall.'— 1760
 Thus scornit thay the swallow ane and all.

Dispysing thus hir helthsum document,
 The foullis ferlie tuik thair flicht anone ;
 Sum with ane bir thay braiddit ouer the bent,
 And sum agane ar to the grene wod gone. 1765
 Vpon the land, quhair I was left allone,
 I tuik my club, and hamewart couth I carie,
 Swa ferliand, as I had sene ane farie.

¹ MS. 'lang.'

CHARTERIS]

Thus passit furth quhill Iune, that Iolie tyde,
 And seidis that wer sawin of beforne
 Wer growin hie, that Hairis mycht thame hyde, 1770
 And als the Quailze craikand in the corne ;
 I mouit furth, betuix midday and morne,
 Unto the hedge, vnder the Hawthorne grene,
 Quhair I befor the said birdis had sene.

And as I stude, be auenture and cace, 1775
 The samin birdis as I haif said 3ow air,
 I hoip because it wes thair hanting place,
 Mair of succour or 3it mair solitair,
 Thay lychtit doun ; and, quhen thay lychtit war,
 The Swallow swyith put furth ane pietuous pyme, 1780
 Said, ' wo is him can not bewar in tyme !

' O, blind birdis ! and full of negligence,
 Unmyndfull of 3our awin prosperitie,
 Lift vp 3our sicht and tak gude aduertence ;
 Luke to the Lint that growis on 3one le ; 1785
 3one is the thing I bad forsuith that we,
 Quhill it wes seid, suld rute furth of the eird ;
 Now is it Lint, now is it hie on breird.

¶ ' Go 3it, quhill it is tender and small,¹
 And pull it vp ; let it na mair Incres ; 1790
 My flesche growis, my bodie quaikis all,
 Thinkand on it I may not sleip in peis.'
 Thay cryit all and bad the Swallow ceis,
 And said, ' 3one Lint heirefter will do gude,
 For linget is to lytill birdis fude. 1795

¹ See p. 237.

[HARLEIAN

Thus passit furth quhill iune, that iolie tyde,
 And seidis that war sawin of beforne 1770
 Wer growin [hie¹], that hairis nicht thame hide,
 And als the quailȝe craikand in the corne ;
 I mouit furth, betuix midday and morne,
 Vnto the hedge, vnder the hawthorne grene,
 Quhair I befor the said birdis had sene. 1775

And as I stuid, be auenture and cace,
 The samyn birdis as I haif said ȝow air,
 I hope becaus it was thair hanting place,
 Mair of succour or ȝit mair soliter,
 Thay lichtit doun ; and, quhen thay lichtit wair, 1780
 F. 47 b. The swallow swyth put furth ane pious pyme,
 Said, 'wo is him can not be war in tyme !

'O, blind birdis ! and full of negligence,
 Vnmyndfull of ȝour awin prosperitie,
 Lift vp ȝour sicht and tak guid aduertence ; 1785
 Luik to the lint that growis on ȝone le ;
 ȝone is the thing I bad forsuith that we,
 Quhill it was seid, suld rute furth of the eird ;
 Now is it lint, now is it he on breird.

'Go ȝit, quhill it is tender² and small, 1790
 And pull it vp ; let it na mair incres ;
 My flesche growis, my bodie quaikis all,
 Thinkand on it I may not sleip in peis.'
 Thay cryit all and bad the swallow ceis,
 And said, 'ȝone lint heirefter will do gude, 1795
 For linet is to litill birdis fude.

¹ See p. 132 and p. 236.² See p. 237.

CHARTERIS]

'We think, quhen that 3one lint bollis ar ryip,
 To mak vs Feist, and fill vs of the seid,
 Magre 3one Churll, and on it sing and pyip.'
 'Weill,' quod the Swallow, 'freindis hardlie beid ;
 Do as 3e will, bot certane sair I dreid, 1800
 Heirefter 3e sall find als sour as sweit,
 Quhen 3e ar speldit on 3one Carlis speit.

'The awner of 3one lint ane fouler is,
 Richt cautelous and full of subteltie ;
 His pray full sendill tymis will he mis, 1805
 Bot gif we birdis all the warrer be ;
 Full mony of our kin he hes gart de,
 And thocht it bot ane sport to spill thair blude :
 God keip me fra him, and the halie Rude.'

Thir small birdis haifand but lytill thocht 1810
 Of perrell that nicht fall be aenture,
 The counsell of the Swallow set at nocht,
 Bot tuke thair flicht and furth togidder fure ;
 Sum to the woid, sum markit to the Mure.
 I tuke my staf, quhen this wes said and done, 1815
 And walkit hame, for it drew neir the none.

¶ The Lint ryipit, the Carll pullit the Lyne,
 Rippillit the bollis, and in beitis set,
 It steipit in the burn, and dryit syne,
 And with ane Betill knockit it and bet, 1820
 Syne swingillit it weill, and hekillit in the flet ;
 His wyfe it span, and twynit it in to threid,
 Of quhilk the Fowlar Nettis maid in deid.

[HARLEIAN

'Me think, quhen that 3one lint bollis ar ryip,
 To mak ws feist, and fill ws of the seid,
 Magre 3one churle, and on it sing and pype.'
 'Weill,' quod the swallow, 'freindis hardlie beid; 1800
 Do as 3e will, bot certane sair I dreid,
 F. 48 a. Heirefter 3e sall find als sour as sweit,
 Quhen 3e ar speildit on 3one carlis speit.

'The awner of 3one lint ane fouler is,
 Richt cawtelous and full of subiltie; 1805
 His pray full sindill tymes will he mis,
 Bot gif we birdis all the warrer be;
 Full mony of oure kin he hes gart die,
 And thocht it bot ane sport to spill thair blude:
 God keip me fra him, and the halie rude.' 1810

Thir small birdis haueand but litill thocht
 Of perrell that nicht fall be auenture,
 The counsell of the swallow set at nocht,
 Bot tuik thair flicht and furth to gidder fure;
 Sum to the wod, sum markit to the mure. 1815
 I tuik my stalf, quhen this was said and done,
 And walkit hame, for it drew neir the none.

The lint rypit, the carle pullit the lyne,
 Rippillit the bollis, and in beitis set,
 It steipit in the burne, and dryit syne, 1820
 And with ane bittill knokit it and bet,
 Syne swyngillit it weill, and hekillit in þe flet;
 F. 48 b. His wyfe it span, and twynit it in to threid,
 Of quhilk the fouller nettis maid indeid.

CHARTERIS]

The wynter come, the wickit wind can blaw,
 The woddis grene wer wallowit with the weit, 1825
 Baith firth and fell with froistis wer maid faw,
 Slonkis and slaik maid slidderie with the sleit ;
 The foulis fair for falt thay fell of feit ;
 On bewis bair it wes na bute to byde,
 Bot hyt vnto housis thame to hyde. 1830

Sum in the barn, sum in the stak of corne
 Thair lugeing tuke and maid thair residence ;
 The Fowlar saw, and greit aithis hes sworne
 Thay suld be tane trewlie for thair expence.
 His nettis hes he set with diligence, 1835
 And in the snaw he schulit hes ane plane,
 And heillit it all ouer with calf agane.

Thir small birdis seand the calf wes glaid ;
 Trowand it had bene corne, thay lychtit down ;
 Bot of the Nettis na presume thay had, 1840
 Nor of the Fowlaris fals Intentioun ;
 To sraip and seik thair meit thay maid thame boun.
 The Swallow on ane lytill branche neir by,
 Dreidand for gyle, thus loud on thame couth cry :

❧ 'In to that calf sraip quhill 3our naillis bleid, 1845
 Thair is na corne, 3e laubour all in vane ;
 Trow 3e 3one Churll for pietie will 3ow feid ?
 Na, na, he hes it heir layit for ane trane ;
 Remoue, I reid, or ellis 3e will be slane ;
 His Nettis he hes set full priuely, 1850
 Reddie to draw ; in tyme be war for thy.'

[HARLEIAN

The winter come, the wickit wind can blaw, 1825
 The wodis grene war wallowit w^{it}h the weit,
 Baith firth and fell with froistis war maid faw,
 Slonkis and slaik maid slidderrie with the sleit ;
 The foulis fair for falt thay fell of feit ;
 On bewis bair it was na bute to byde, 1830
 Bot hyit vnto housis thame to hide.

Sum in the barn, sum in the stak of corne
 Thair lugeing tuik and maid thair residence ;
 The foular saw, and grit aithis hes sworne
 Thay suld be tane trewlie for thair expence. 1835
 His nettis hes he set with diligence,
 And in the snaw he schuillit hes ane plane,
 And heillit it all ouer with calf agane.

Thir small birdis seand the calf was glaid ;
 Trowand it had bene corne, thay lichtit down ; 1840
 Bot of the nettis na presume thay had,
 Nor of the fowlaris fals intentioun ;

F. 49 a. To scaip and seik thair meit thay maid thame boun.
 The swallow on ane litill brenche neir by,
 Dreidand for gile, thus loud on thame couth cry : 1845

‘ In to that calf scaip quhill 3our naillis bleid,
 Thair is na corne, 3e laubour all in vane ;
 Trow 3e 3one churle for pietie will 3ow feid ?
 Na, na, he hes it heir layit for ane trane ;
 Remoue, I reid, or ellis 3e wilbe slane ; 1850
 His nettis he hes set full priuely,
 Reddie to draw ; in tyme bewar for thy.’

CHARTERIS]

Greit fule is he that puttis in danger
 His lyfe, his honour, for ane thing of nocht ;
 Greit fule is he that will not glaidlie heir
 Counsall in tyme, quhill it auaiill him mocht ; 1855
 Greit fule is he that hes na thyng in thocht
 Bot thing present, and efter quhat may fall,
 Nor of the end hes na memoriall.

Thir small birdis for hunger famischit neir,
 Full besie sraipand for to seik thair fude, 1860
 The counsall of the Swallow wald not heir,
 Suppois thair laubour did thame lytill gude.
 Quhen scho thair fulusche hartis vnderstude,
 Sa Indurat, vp in ane tre scho flew ;
 With that this Churll ouer thame his Nettis drew. 1865

Allace ! it wes greit hart sair for to se
 That bludie Boucheour bet thay birdis doun,
 And for till heir, quhen thay wist weill to de,
 Thair cairfull sang and lamentatioun :
 Sum with ane staf he straik to eirth on swoun, 1870
 Of sum the heid he straik, of sum he brak the crag,
 Sum half on lyfe he stoppit in his bag.

And quhen the Swallow saw that thay war deid,
 'Lo,' quod scho, 'thus it happinnis mony syis
 Of thame that will not tak counsall and reid 1875
 Of Prudent men or Clerkis that ar wyis ;
 This greit perrell I tauld thame mair than thryis ;
 Now ar thay deid, and wo is me thairfoir !'
 Scho tuke hir flicht, bot I hir saw no moir. 1879

[HARLEIAN

Grit fule is he that puttis in dangeir^s
 His lyfe, his honour, for ane thing of nocht;
 Grit fule is he that will not glaidlie heir 1855
 Counsall in tyme, quhill it auail him nocht¹;
 Grit fule is he that hes na thing in thocht
 Bot thing present, and efter quhat may fall,
 Nor of the end hes na memoriall.

Thir small birdis for hunger famischit neir, 1860
 Full besie scraipand for to seik thair fude,
 The counsall of the swallow wald not heir,
 Suppois thair laubour did thame litill gude.

F. 49 b. Quhen scho thair fulische hartis vnderstude,
 Sa indurat, vp in ane tre scho flew; 1865
 With that this churle ouer thame his nettis drew.

Allace! it was grit hart sair for to se
 That bludie bowcheour beit thay birdis doun,
 And for to heir, quhen thay wist weill to de,
 Thair cairfull sang and lamentatioun: 1870
 Sum *wit* ane staf he straik to eirth on swoun,
 Of sum the heid he straik, of sum he brak the crag,
 Sum half on lyfe he stoppit in his bag.

And quhen the swallow saw that thay war deid,
 'Lo,' quod scho, 'thus it happy^znis mony syis 1875
 Of thame that will not tak counsall and reid
 Of prudent men and clerkis that ar wyse;
 This grit perrell I tauld thame mair than thryis;
 Now ar thay deid, and wo is me thairfoir!
 Scho tuik hir flicht, bot I hir saw no moir. 1880

Finis.

¹ Cf. pp. 138, 239.

CHARTERIS]

MORALITAS.

LO, WORTHIE FOLK, ESOPE, that Nobill Clerk,
 Ane Poet worthie to be Lawreat,
 Quhen that he waikit from mair autenthik werk,
 With vther ma, this foirsaid Fabill wrait,
 Quhilk at this tyme may weill be applicat
 To guid morall edificatioun, 1885
 Haifand ane sentence according to ressoun.

This Carll and Bond of gentrice spoliat,
 Sawand this calf, thir small birdis to sla,
 It is the Feind, quhilk fra the Angelike stait
 Exylit is, as fals Apostata : 1890
 Quhilk day and nicht weryis not for to ga
 Sawand poysoun in mony wickit thocht
 In mannis Saull, quhilk Christ full deir hes bocht.

And quhen the Saull, as seid in to the eird,
 Geuis consent vnto delectioun,¹ 1895
 The wickit thocht beginnis for to breird
 In deidlie sin, quhilk is dampnatioun ;
 Ressoun is blindit with affectioun,
 And carnall lust growis full grene and gay,
 Throw consuetude haptit from day to day. 1900

Proceding furth be vse and consuetude,
 The sin ryipis, and schame is set on syde ;
 The Feynd plettis his Nettis scharp and rude,
 And vnder plesance preuilie dois hyde ;
 Syne on the feild he sawis calf full wyde, 1905
 Quhilk is bot tume and verray vanitie
 Of fleschlie lust and vaine prosperitie.

¹ Cf. p. 241.

[HARLEIAN

F. 50 a.

Moralitas.

Lo, wirthie folk, Esope, that noble clerk,
 Ane poet wirthie to be lawriate,
 Quhen that he vaikit frome mair autentik werk,
 With vther ma, this foirsaid fabill wrait,
 Quhilk at this tyme may weill be applegate 1885
 To guid morale edificatioun,
 Hauand ane sentence according to ressoun.

This carle and bond of gentrice spoliare,
 Sawand this calf, thir small birdis to sla,
 It is the feind, quhilk fra the angelike stait 1890
 Exylit is, as fals apostata :
 Quhilk day and nicht weryis not for to ga
 Sawand poysoun in mony wickit thocht
 In mannis saule, quhilk full deir Christ hes bocht.

And quhen the saule, as seid in to the eird, 1895
 Gifis consent vnto delectioun,¹
 The wickit thocht begynnys for to breird
 In deidlie sin, quhilk is dampnatioun ;
 Ressoun is blindit with affectioun,
 And carnell lust growis full grene and gay, 1900
 Throw conswetude hantit frome day to day.

F. 50 b. Proceeding furth be vse and consuetude,
 The sin ryipis, and schame is set on side ;
 The feind plettis his nettis scharpe and rude,
 And vnder plesance preuilie dois hyde ; 1905
 Syne on the feild he sawis calf full wyde,
 Quhilk is bot tume and verray vanitie
 Of fleschlie lust and vane prosperitie.

¹ Cf. p. 241.

CHARTERIS]

¶ Thir hungrie birdis wretchis we may call,
 As scraipand in this warldis [vane¹] plesance,
 Greddie to gadder gudis temporall, 1910
 Quhilk as the calf ar tume without substance,
 Lytill of auaill, and full of variance,
 Lyke to the mow befor the face of wind
 Quhiskis away and makis wretchis blind.

This Swallow, quhilk eschaipit is the snair, 1915
 The halie Preicheour weill may signifie,
 Exhortand folk to walk and ay be war
 Fra Nettis of our wickit enemie,
 Quha sleipis not, bot euer is reddie,
 Quhen wretchis in this warld calf dois scraip, 1920
 To draw his Net, that thay may not eschaip.

Allace! quhat cair, quhat weiping is and wo,
 Quhen Saull and bodie departit ar in twane;
 The bodie to the wormis Keiching go,
 The Saull to Fyre, to euerlestand pane. 1925
 Quhat help is² than this calf, thir gudis vane,
 Quhen thow art put in Luciferis bag,
 And brocht to hell, and hangit be the crag?

Thir hid Nettis for to persauae and `se,
 This sarie calf wyislie to vnderstand, 1930
 Best is³ be war in maist prosperite,
 For in this warld thair is na thing lestand;
 Is na man wait how lang his stait will stand,
 His lyfe will lest, nor how that he sall end
 Efter his deith, nor quhidder he sall wend. 1935

¹ See pp. 143, 241.² See p. 242.³ Orig. 'Beistis.'

[HARLEIAN

Thir hungrie birdis wretchis we may call,
 As sraipand in this warldis vane plesance, 1910
 Greddie to gadder guidis temporall,
 Quhilk as the calf ar tume without substance,
 Litill of auaill, and full of varience,
 Like to the mow before the face of wind
 Quhiskis away and makis wratchis blind. 1915

This swallow, quhilk eschaipit hes the snair,
 The halie preichour weill may signifie,
 Exhortand folk to walk and ay be wair
 Fra nettis of oure wickit enemye,
 Quha sleipis not, bot euer is reddie, 1920
 Quhen wretchis in this world calf dois sraip,
 To draw his net, than may thay not eschaip.

Allace ! quhat cair, quhat weiping is and wo,
 F. 51 a. Quhen saule and bodie depairtit ar in twane ;
 The bodie to the wormes keitching go, 1925
 The saule to fire, to euerlestand pane.
 Quhat help is ¹ than this calf, thir guidis vane,
 Quhen thow art put in luciferis bag,
 And brocht to hell, and hangit be the crag ?

Thir hid nettis for to persauie and se, 1930
 This sarie calf wyislie to vnderstand,
 Best is bewar in maist prosperitie,
 For in this world thair is na thing lestand ;
 Is na man wait how lang his stait will stand,
 His lyfe will lest, nor how that he sall end 1935
 Efter his deith, nor quhidder he sall wend.

¹ See p. 242.

CHARTERIS]

¶ Pray we thairfoir, quhill we ar in this lyfe,
 For four thingis : the first, fra sin remufe ;
 The secund is fra all weir and stryfe ;¹
 The thrid is perfite cheritie and lufe ;
 The feird thing is, and maist for oure behufe, 1940
 That is in blis with Angellis to be fallow.
 And thus endis the preiching of the Swallow.

¶ FINIS.

¶ THE TAILL OF THE UOLF THAT GAT
 THE NEKHERING THROW THE WRINKIS
 OF THE FOXE THAT BEGYLIT THE
 CADGEAR.

QUHYLUM THAIR wynnit in ane wildernes,
 As myne Authour expreslie can declair,
 Ane reuand Uolf, that leuit vpon cais 1945
 On bestiall, and maid him weill to fair ;
 Was nane sa big about him he wald spair,
 And he war hungrie, outhir for fauour or feid,
 Bot in his breith he weryit thame to deid.

Swa happinnit him in watching, as he went, 1950
 To meit ane Foxe in middis of the way ;
 He him foirsaw, and fenzeit to be schent,
 And with ane bek he bad the Uolf gude day.
 ‘Welcum to me,’ quod he, ‘thow Russell gray ;’
 Syne loutit down, and tuke him be the hand. 1955
 ‘Ryse vp, Lowrence, I leif the for to stand.

¹ Cf. p. 242.

[HARLEIAN

Pray we thairfore, quhill we ar in this lyfe,
 For foure thingis : the first, fra sin remufe ;
 The secund is fra all weir and stryif ;¹
 The thrid is *persfite* charitie and luif ; 1940
 The feird thing is, and maist for oure behuif,
 That is in blis with angellis to be fallow.
 And thus endis the preiching of the swallow.

F. 51 b. The taill of the wolf that gat
 the nekhering throw the wri=
 nkis of the fore that begilit
 the cadgear.

Qubilum thair wynnit in a wildernes,
 As myne authour expreslie can declair, 1945
 Ane reuand wolf, that leuit vpoun purche[s]²
 On bestiall, and maid him weill to fair ;
 Was nane sa big about him he wald spair,
 And he wer hungrie, outhur for fauour or feid,
 Bot in his wraith he werryit thame to deid. 1950

Swa happyznit him in wetching, as he went,
 To meit ane foxe in middis of the way ;
 He him foirsaw, and feinzeit to be schent,
 And with ane bek he bad the wolf gud day.
 'Welcum to me,' quod he, 'thow russell gray ;' 1955
 Syne loutit down, and tuik him be the hand.
 'Ryse vp, lowrence, I leif the for to stand.

¹ Cf. p. 242.² The 's' has been cut off by the binder.

CHARTERIS]

‘Quhair hes thow bene this sesoun fra my sicht?
 Thow sall beir office, and my Stewart be,
 For thow can knap doun Caponis on the nicht,
 And, lourand law, thow can gar hennis de.’ 1960
 ‘Schir,’ said the Foxe, ‘that ganis nocht for me :
 And I am raid, gif thay me se on far,
 That at my figure beist and bird will skar.’

¶ ‘Na,’ quod the Uolf, ‘thow can in couert creip,
 Upon thy wame, and hint thame be the heid ; 1965
 And mak ane suddand schow vpon ane scheip,
 Syne with thy wappinnis wirrie him to deid.’
 ‘Schir,’ said the Foxe, ‘3e knaw my Roib is reid,
 And thairfoir thair will na beist abyde me,
 Thocht I wald be sa fals as for to hyde me.’ 1970

‘3is,’ quod the Uolf, ‘throw buskis and throw brayis,¹
 Law can thow lour to cum to thy Intent.’
 ‘Schir,’ said the Foxe, ‘3e wait weill how it gais ;
 Ane lang space fra thame thay will feill my sent,
 Then will thay eschaip, suppois I suld be schent ; 1975
 And I am schamefull for to cum behind thame
 In to the feild, thocht I suld sleipand find thame.’

‘Na,’ quod the Uolf, ‘thow can cum on the wind,
 For euerie wrink, forsuith, thow hes ane wyle.’
 ‘Schir,’ said the Foxe, ‘that beist 3e micht call blind, 1980
 That micht not eschaip than fra me ane myle.
 How micht I ane of thame that wyis begyle?
 My tippit twa eiris, and my twa gray Ene,
 Garris me be kend, quhair I wes neuer sene.’

¹ Orig. ‘baryis.’

[HARLEIAN

‘Quhair hes thow bene this sesoun fra my sicht?

Thow sall beir office, and my stewart be,

F. 52 a. For thow can knap doun caponis on the nicht, 1960

And, lowrand law, thow can gar hennis de.’

‘Schir,’ said the foxe, ‘that ganis not for me :

And I am rad, gif thay me se on far,

That at my figure beist and bird will skar.’

‘Na,’ quod the wolf, ‘thow can in couert creip, 1965

Vpoun thy wame, and hint thame be the heid ;

And mak ane suddane chow vpoun ane scheip,

Syne with thy wappyznis wirrie him to deid.’

‘Schir,’ said the fox, ‘3e knaw my rob is reid,

And thairfoir thair will na beist abide me, 1970

Thocht I wald be sa fals as for to hide me.’

‘3is,’ quod the wolf, ‘throw buskis and throw breiris,

Law can thow lour to cum to thine intent.’

‘Schir,’ said the fox, ‘3e wait weill how it gais ;

Ane lang space fra thame thay feill my sent, 1975

Then will thay eschaip, suppois thay suld be schent ;

And I am schamefull for to cum behind thame

In to the feild, thocht I suld sleipand find thame.’

‘Na,’ quod the wolf, ‘thow can cum on the wind,
For euerie wrink, forsuith, thow hes ane wyle.’ 1980

‘Schir,’ said the fox, ‘that beist 3e micht call blind,

F. 52 b. That micht not eschaip than fra me ane myle.

How micht I ane of thame that wyis begile?

My tippit twa eiris, and my twa gray ene,

Garris me be kend, quhair I was neuer sene.’ 1985

CHARTERIS]

'Than,' said the Uolf, 'Lowrence, I heir the le, 1985
 And castis for perrellis thy ginnes to defend ;
 Bot all thy sonzeis sall not auaill the,
 About the busk with wayis thocht thou wend ;
 Falset will failze ay at the latter end ;
 To bow at bidding, and byde not quhill thou brest, 1990
 Thairfoir I gif the counsall for the best.'

¶ 'Schir,' said the Foxe, 'it is Lentrung, ze se ;
 I can nouthr fische with huke nor Net,
 To tak ane Banestikill ; thocht we baith suld de,
 I had [n]ane vther craft to win my meit ; 1995
 Bot wer it Pasche, that men suld pultrie eit,
 As Kiddis, Lambis, or Caponis in to ply,
 To beir 3our office than wald I not set by.'

'Than,' said the Uolf, in wraith, 'wenis thou with wylis,
 And with thy mony mowis me to mat ? 2000
 It is ane auld Dog, doutles, that thou begylis :
 Thou wenis to Draw the stra befoir the catt !'
 'Schir,' said the Foxe, 'God wait, I mene not that ;
 For and I did, it wer weill worth that ze
 In ane reid Raip had tyit me till ane tre. 2005

'Bot now I se he is ane fule perfay
 That with his maister fallis in ressoning ;
 I did bot till assay quhat ze wald say ;
 God wait, my mynd wes on ane vther thing ;
 I sall fulfill in all thing 3our bidding, 2010
 Quhat euer ze charge, on nichtis or on dayis.'
 'Weill,' quod the Uolf, 'I heir weill quhat thou sayis.

[HARLEIAN

'Than,' said the wolf, 'lowrence, I heir the le,
 And castis for perrellis thy ginnes to defend;
 Bot all thy seinzes sall not auail the,
 About the busk with wayis thocht thou wend;
 Falset will failze ay at the latter end; 1990
 To bow at bidding, and byde not quhill thou brest,
 Thairfoir I gif the counsall for the best.'

'Schir,' said the fox, 'it is lenterne, ze se;
 I can not fische, for weitting of my feit,
 To tak ane bane stikkil; thocht we baith suld de, 1995
 I haif na vther craft to win my meit;
 Bot war it pasche, that men suld pultrie eit,
 As kiddis, lambes, or caponis in to ply,
 To beir 3our office than wald I not set by.' 1999

'Than,' said the wolf, in wraith, 'wenis thou witz wylis,
 And with thy mony mowis me to mat?
 It is ane auld dog, doutles, that thou begilis:
 Thow wenis to draw the stra befoir the catt!'
 'Schir,' said the fox, 'god wait, I mene not that;

F. 53 a. For and I did, it war weill worth that ze 2005
 In ane reid raip had tyit me till ane tre.

'Bot now I se he is ane fule perfay
 That with his maister fallis in ressoning;
 I did bot till assay quhat ze wald say;
 God wait, my mynd was on ane vther thing; 2010
 I sall fulfill in all thing 3our bidding,
 Quhat euer ze chairge, on nichtis or on dayis.'
 'Weill,' quod the wolf, 'I wait weill quhat thou sayis.

CHARTERIS]

'Bot 3it I will thow mak to me ane aith,
 For to be leill attour all leuand leid.' 2014
 'Schir,' said the Foxe, 'that ane word makis me wraith,
 For now I se 3e haif me at ane dreid ;
 3it sall I sweir, suppois it be not neid,
 Be Iuppiter, and on pane of my heid,
 I sall be trew to 3ow, quhill I be deid.'

With that ane Cadgear, with capill & with creillis, 2020
 Come carpand furth ; than drew this Boucheour by.
 The fox the flewer of the fresche hering feillis,
 And to the Uolf he roundis priuelie :
 'Schir, 3one ar hering the Cadgear caryis by ;
 Thairfoir I reid that we se for sum wayis 2025
 To get sum fische aganis thir fasting dayis.

¶ 'Sen I am Stewart, I wald we had sum stuf,
 And 3e ar siluer seik, I wait richt weill ;
 Thocht we wald thig 3one verray Churlische chuf,
 He will not gif vs ane hering of his Creill, 2030
 Befoir 3one Churle on kneis thocht we wald kneill ;
 Bot 3it I trow alsone that 3e sall se,
 Gif I can traist¹ to bleir 3one Carllis Ee.

'Schir, ane thing is, and we get of 3one pelf,
 3e man tak trauell and mak vs sum supple ; 2035
 For he that will not laubour and help him self,
 In to thir dayis, he is not worth ane fle ;
 I think to wirk as besie as ane Be.
 And 3e sall follow ane lytill efterwart,
 And gadder hering, for that sall be 3our part.' 2040

¹ Orig. indistinct. Cf. p. 151.

[HARLEIAN

'Bot 3it I will thow mak to me ane aith,
 For to be leill attour all leuand leid.' 2015
 'Schir,' said the foxe, 'that ane word makis me wraith,
 For now I se 3e haif me at ane dreid ;
 3it sall I sweir, suppois it be not neid,
 Be Iuppiter, and on pane of my heid,
 I salbe trew to 3ow, quhill I be deid.' 2020

With that ane cadgear, *witʰ* capill and *witʰ* creillis,
 Come carband furth ; than lowrence culd him spy.
 The fox the flewar of the fresche heiring feillis,
 And to the wolf he roundis priuely :
 'Schir, 3one ar hering the cadgear caryis by ; 2025
 Thairfoir I rid that we se for sum wayis
 To get sum fische-aganis thir fasting dayis.

F. 53 b. 'Sen I am stewart, I wald we had sum stuff,
 And 3e ar siluer seik, I wait richt weill ;
 Thocht we wald thig 3one verray churlische chuff, 2030
 He will not gif ws ane hering of his creill,
 Befoir 3one churle on kneis *thocht* we wald kneill ;
 Bot 3it I trow alsone that 3e sall se,
 Gif I can craft to bleir 3one carlis ee.

'Schir, ane thing is, and we get of 3one pelf, 2035
 3e man tak trauell and mak ws sum supple ;
 For he that will not labour and help him self,
 In to thir dayis, he is not worth ane fle ;
 I think to wirk as bessie as ane be.
 And 3e sall follow ane litill efterwart, 2040
 And gadder hering, for that salbe 3our pairt.'

CHARTERIS]

With that he kest ane compas far about,
 And straucht him down in middis of the way,
 As he war deid he fenzeit him, but dout,
 And than vpon ane lang vnliklie bray
 The quhyte of his Ene he turnit vp in tway ; 2045
 His toung out hang ane handbreid of his heid,
 And still he lay, als straucht as he wer deid.

¶ The Cadgear fand the Foxe, and he wes fane,
 And till him self this softlie can he say :
 ' At the nixt bait, in Faith, 3e sall be flane, 2050
 And of 3our skyn I sall mak mittennis twa.'
 He lap full lichtlie about him quhair he lay,
 And all the trace he trippit on his tais ;
 As he had hard ane pyper play, he gais.

' Heir Lyis the Deuill,' quod he, ' deid in ane dyke. 2055
 Sic ane selcouth saw I not this seuin 3eir ;
 I trow 3e haif bene tussillit with sum tyke,
 That garris 3ow ly sa still withouttin steir :
 Schir Foxe, in Faith, 3e ar deir welcum heir ;
 It is sum wyfis malisone, I trow, 2060
 For pultrie pyking, that lychtit hes on 3ow.

' Thair sall na Pedder, for purs, nor 3it for gluifis,
 Nor 3it for poyntis pyke 3our pellet fra me ;
 I sall of it mak mittennis to my luifis,
 Till hald my handis hait quhair euer I be ; 2065
 Till Flanderis sall it neuer sail the se.'
 With that in hy, he hint him be the heillis,
 And with ane swak he swang him on the creillis.

[HARLEIAN

With that he kest ane compas far about,
 And strawcht him doun in middis of the way,
 As he wer deid he feinzeit him, but dout,
 And than vpoun lenth vnliklie lay ; 2045
 The quhite he turnit vp of his ene tway ;
 His tounge out hang ane hand braid of his heir
 And still he lay, als straucht as he wer deid.

The cadgear fand the fox, and he was fane,
 F. 54 a. And till him self this softlie can he say : 2050
 ‘ At the nixt bait, in faith, 3e salbe flane,
 And of 3our skin I sall mak mittenis tway.’
 He lap about lichtlie quhair he lay,
 And all the trace he trippit on his tais ;
 As he [had¹] hard ane pyper play, he gais. 2055

‘ Heir lyis,’ quod he, ‘ the deuill deid in a dyke.
 Sic ane selcouth saw I not this sevin 3eir ;
 I trow 3e haif bene tussillit w^{it}h sum tyke,
 That garris 3ow ly sa still withoutin steir :
 Schir foxe, in faith, 3e ar deir welcum heir ; 2060
 It is sum wyfis malisoun, I trow,
 For pultrie pyking, that lichtit hes on 3ow.

‘ Thair sall na pedder, for purs, nor [3it] for glufis,
 Nor 3it for pointis pyke 3our pellet fra me ;
 I sall of it mak mittenis to my lufis, 2065
 Till hald my handis hait quhair euer I be ;
 Till flanderis sall it neuer sail the se.’
 With that in hy, he hint him be the heillis,
 And with ane swak he swang him on the creillis.

¹ See p. 152.

CHARTERIS]

Syne be the heid the hors in hy hes hint ;
 The fraudfull Foxe thairto gude tent hes tane, 2070
 And with his teith the stoppell, or he stint,
 Pullit out, and syne the hering ane and ane
 Out of the creillis he swakkit doun gude wane.
 The Uolf wes war, and gadderit spedilie ;
 The Cadgear sang, ' huntis vp, vp, vpoun hie.' 2075

3it at ane burne the Cadgear luikit about ;
 With that the Foxe lap quyte the creillis fra ;
 The Cadgear wald haif raucht the Foxe ane rout,
 Bot all for nocht, he wan his hoill that day.
 Than with ane schout thus can the Cadgear say : ¹ 2080
 ' Abyde, and thow ane Nekhering sall haif,
 Is worth my Capill, Creillis, and all the laif.'

' Now,' quod the Foxe, ' I schrew me, and we meit :
 I hard quhat thow hecht to do with my skyn.
 Thy hands sall neuer in thay mittennis tak heit, 2085
 And thow war hangit, Carll, and all thy kyn !
 Do furth thy mercat ; at me thow sall nocht wyn ;
 And sell thy hering thow hes thair till hie price,
 Ellis thow sall wyn nocht on thy merchandice.'

The Cadgear trimillit for teyne quhair that he stude ; 2090
 ' It is weill worthie,' quod he, ' I want 3one tyke,
 That had not in my hand sa mekill gude,
 As staf, or sting, 3one truker for to stryke.'
 With that lychtlie he lap outouer ane dyke,
 And snakkit doun ane staf, for he wes tene, 2095
 That heuie wes and of the Holyne grene.

¹ In the original ll. 2079 and 2080 are transposed.

[HARLEIAN

Syne be the heid the horß in hy hes hint ; 2070

The fraudfull foxe thairto guid tent hes tane,

And with his teith the stoppell, or he stint,

F. 54 b. Pullit out, and syne the hering ane and ane
Out of the creillis he swakkit doun gude wane.

The wolf was war, and gadderit spedilie ; 2075

The cadgear sang, ' huntis vp, vp, vpoun hie.'

3it at ane burne the cadgear luikit about ;

With that the foxe lap quite the creillis fray ;

The cadgear wald haif raucht the foxe ane rout,

Bot all for nocht, he wan his hoill that day. 2080

Than with ane schout thus can the cadgear say :

' Abyde, and thow ane nekhering sall haif,

Is worth my capill, creillis, and all the laif.'

' Now,' quod the foxe, ' I schrew me, and we meit :

I hard quhat thow hecht to do ~~wit~~ my skin. 2085

Thy handis sall neuer in thay mittenis tak heit,

And thow war hangit, carle, and all thy kin !

Do furth thy marcat ; at me thow sall not win ;

And sell thy hering thow hes thair till hie price,

Ellis thow sall win nocht on thy marchandice.' 2090

The cadgear trimmillit for teyne quhair that he stuid ;

' It is weill worthie,' quod he, ' I want 3one tyke,

That had not in my hand sa mekle gude,

As staf, or sting, 3one truker for to strike.'

With that lichtlie he lap out ouer ane dyke, 2095

F. 55 a. And hakkit doun ane staf, for he was tene,

That heuie was and of the holyne grene.

CHARTERIS]

With that the Foxe vnto the Uolf couth wend,
 And fand him be the hering, quhair he lyis;
 'Schir,' said he than, 'maid I not fair defend?
 Ane wicht man wantit neuer, and he wer wyis; 2100
 Ane hardie hart is hard for to suppryis.'
 Than said the Uolf: 'thow art ane Berne full bald,
 And wyse at will, in gude tyme be it tald.

'Bot quhat wes zone the Carll cryit on hie,
 And schuke his heid, quhen that he saw thow fell?' 2105
 'Schir,' said the Foxe, 'that I can tell trewlie;
 He said the Nekhering wes in till the creill.'
 'Kennis thow that hering?' '3e, Schir, I ken it weill,
 And at the creill mouth I had it thryis but dout;
 The wecht thair of neir tit my tuskis out. 2110

¶ 'Now, suithlie, Schir, nicht we that hering fang,
 It wald be fische to vs thir fourtie dayis.'
 Than said the Uolf, 'now God nor that I hang,
 Bot to be thair, I wald gif all my clais,
 To se gif that my wappinnis mycht it rais.' 2115
 'Schir,' said the Foxe, 'God wait, I wischit 3ow oft,
 Quhen that my pith nicht not beir it on loft.

'It is ane syde of Salmond, as it wer,
 And callour, py pand like ane Pertrik Ee;
 It is worth all the hering 3e haif thair, 2120
 3e, and we had it swa, it is¹ worth sic thre.'
 'Than,' said the Uolf, 'quhat counsell geuis thow me?'
 'Schir,' said the Foxe, 'wirk efter my deuyis,
 And 3e sall haif it, and tak 3ow na suppryis.

¹ Orig. 'is it.'

[HARLEIAN

With that the fox vnto the wolf culd wend,
 And fand him be the hering, quhair he lyis ;
 ‘Schir,’ said he than, ‘maid I not fair defend? 2100
 Ane wicht man wantit neuer, and he war wyse ;
 Ane hardie hart is hard for to suppryis.’
 Than said the wolf: ‘thow art ane berne full bald,
 And wyse at will, in gude tyme be it tald.

‘Bot quhat was 3one the carle cryit on hie, 2105
 And schuik his hand, quod he, hes thow na feill?’
 ‘Schir,’ said the foxe, ‘that I can tell trewlie ;
 He said the nekhering was in the creill.’
 ‘Kennis thow that hering?’ ‘3e, schir, I ken it weill,
 And at the creill mouth I had it thryis but dou[t]¹ ; 2110
 The wecht thair of neir tit my tuskis out.

‘Now, surelie, schir, mycht we that hering fang,
 It wald be fische to ws thir fourtie dayis.’
 Than said the wolf, ‘now god nor that I hang,
 Bot to be thair, I wald gif all my clays, 2115
 To se gif that my wappyznis nicht it rais.’
 ‘Schir,’ said the foxe, ‘god wait, I wischit 3ow oft,
 Quhen that my teith nicht not beir it on loft.

F. 55 b. ‘It is ane side of salmond, as it wair,
 And callour, py pand like ane pertrik ee ; 2120
 It is worth all the hering 3e haif thair,
 3e, and we had it swa, it is² worth sic thre.
 ‘Than,’ said the wolf, ‘quhat counsale geuis thow me?’
 ‘Schir,’ said the foxe, ‘wirk efter my deuyis,
 And 3e sall haif it, and tak 3ow na suppryis. 2125

¹ The *t* has been cut off by the binder.² MS. ‘is it.’

CHARTERIS]

'First, 3e man cast ane cumpas far about, 2125
 Syne straucht 3ow down in middis of the way ;
 Baith heid, and feit, and taill 3e man streik out,
 Hing furth 3our tounge, & clois weill 3our Ene tway ;
 Syne se 3our heid on ane hard place 3e lay ;
 And dout not for na perrell may appeir, 2130
 Bot hald 3ow clois quhen *that* the Carll cummis neir.

'And thocht 3e se ane staf, haif 3e na dout,
 Bot hald 3ow wonder still in to that steid ;
 And luke 3our Ene be clois, as thay wer out,
 And se that 3e schrink nouthur fute nor heid : 2135
 Than will the Cadgear Carll trow 3e be deid,
 And in till haist will hint 3ow be the heillis,
 As he did me, and swak 3ow on his creillis.'

¶ 'Now,' quod the Uolf, 'I sweir the be my thrift,
 I trow 3one Cadgear Carlle dow not me beir.' 2140
 'Schir,' said the Foxe, 'on loft he will 3ow lift,
 Upoun his creillis, and do him lytill deir.
 Bot ane thing dar I suithlie to 3ow sweir,
 Get 3e that hering sicker in sum place,
 3e sall not fair in fisching mair quhill Pasche. 2145

'I sall say *In principio* vpon 3ow,
 And croce 3our corps from the top to ta ;
 Wend quhen 3e will, I dar be warrand now
 That 3e sall de na suddan deith this day.'
 With that the Uolf gird vp sone and to ga, 2150
 And caist ane cumpas about the Cadgear far ;
 Syne straucht him in the gait, or he come nair.

[HARLEIAN

‘First, 3e mon cast ane compas far about,
 Syne straucht 3ow doun in middis of the way ;
 Baith heid, and feit, and taill 3e man streik out,
 Hing furth 3our tounge, and clois weill 3our ene tway ;
 Syne se 3our heid on ane hard place 3e lay ; 2130
 And dout not for na pérrell may appeir,
 Bot hald 3ow clois quhen that the carle cummis neir.

‘And thocht 3e se ane staf, haif 3e na dout,
 Bot hald 3ow winder still in to that steid ;
 And luik 3our ene be clois, as thay war out, 2135
 And se that 3e schrink nouthur fute nor heid :
 Than will the cadgear carle trow 3e be deid,
 And in till haist will hint 3ow be the heillis,
 As he did me, and swak 3ow on his creillis.’

‘Now,’ quod the wolf, ‘I sweir the be my thrift, 2140
 F. 56 a. I trow 3one cadger carle he will me beir.’¹
 ‘Schir,’ said the foxe, ‘on loft he will 3ow lift,
 Vpoun his creillis, and do him litill deir.
 Bot ane thing dar I surelie to 3ow sweir,
 Get 3e that hering sicker in sum place, 2145
 3e sall not fair in fisching mair quhill pasche.

‘I sall say *In principio* vpoun 3ow,
 And cros 3our corporis frome the top to tay ;
 Wend quhen 3e will, I dar be warrand now
 That 3e sall die na suddane deith this day.’ 2150
 With that the wolf gird vp sone and to gay,
 And kest ane compas about the cadger far ;
 Syne raucht him in the gait, or he come nar.

¹ See the better reading on p. 158.

CHARTERIS]

He laid his halfheid sicker hard and sad,
 Syne straucht his four feit fra him, and his heid,
 And hang his tounge furth as the Foxe him bad ; 2155
 Als still he lay, as he wer verray deid,
 Rakkand na thing of the Carllis fauour nor feid,
 Bot euer vpon the Nekhering he thinkis,
 And quyte forzetts the Foxe and all his wrinkis.

With that the Cadgear, als wraith as ony wind, 2160
 Come rydand on the laid, for it wes licht,
 Thinkand ay on the Foxe that wes behind,
 Upon quhat wyse reuenge him best he micht ;
 And at the last of the Uolf gat ane sicht,
 Quhair he in lenth lay streikit in the gait ; 2165
 Bot gif he lichtit doun, or nocht, God wait !

¶ 'Softlie,' he said, 'I wes begylit anis ;
 Be I begylit twyis, I schrew vs baith,
 That euill bot it sall licht vpon thy banis,
 He suld haif had that hes done me the skaith.' 2170
 On hicht he houit the stalf, for he wes wraith,
 And hit him with sic will vpon the heid,
 Quhill neir he swonit and swelt in to that steid.

Thre battis he buir, or he his feit mycht find,
 Bot 3it the Uolf wes wicht, and wan away. 2175
 He micht not se, he wes sa verray blind,
 Nor wit reddilie quether it wes nicht or day.
 The Foxe beheld that seruice quhair he lay,
 And leuch on loft, quhen he the Uolf sa seis,
 Baith deif and dosinnit, fall swonand on his kneis. 2180

[HARLEIAN

He laid his halfheid sicker hard and sad,
 Syne straucht his foure feit fra him, and his heid, 2155
 And hang his toung furth as the foxe him bad ;
 Als still he lay, as he war verray deid,
 Rakkand na thing of the carlis fauour nor feid,
 Bot euer vpoun the nékhering he thinkis,
 And quite forzetis the foxe and all his wrinkis. 2160

With that þe cadger, wauering as the wind,
 Come rydand on the laid, for it was licht,
 F. 5^b b. Thinkand ay on the foxe that was behind,
 Vpoun quhat wyse reuengit on him he nicht ;
 And at the last of the wolf gat ane sicht, 2165
 Quhair he in lenth lay streikit in the gait ;
 Bot gif he lichtit doun, or not, god wait !

‘Softlie,’ he said, ‘I was begilit anis ;
 Be I begilit twyis, I schrew ws baith,
 That euill bot it sall licht vpoun thy banis, 2170
 He suld haif had that hes done me the skaith.’
 On hicht he houit the stalf, for he was wraith,
 And hit him ~~wit~~ sic will vpoun the heid,
 Quhill neir he swonit and swalt in to that steid.

Thre battis he buir, or he his feit nicht find, 2175
 Bot 3it the wolf was wicht, and wan away.
 He nicht not se, he wes sa verray blind,
 Nor wit reddilie quhether it wes nicht or day.
 The foxe beheld that seruice quhair he lay,
 And leuch on loft, quhen he the wolf sa seis, 2180
 Baith deif and dosinnit, fall swounand on his kneis.

CHARTERIS]

He that of ressoun can not be content,
 Bot couetis all, is abill all to tyne.
 The Foxe, quhen that he saw the Uolf wes schent,
 Said to him self, 'thir hering sall be myne ;'
 I le, or ellis he wes efterwart fyne 2185
 That fand sic wayis his maister for to greif :
 With all the fische thus Lowrence tuk his Leif.

¶ The Uolf wes neir weill dungin to the deid,
 That vneis with his lyfe away he wan,
 For with the Bastoun weill brokin wes his heid. 2190
 The Foxe in to his den sone drew him than,
 That had betraist his Maister and the man :
 The ane wantit the hering of his creillis,
 The vtheris blude wes rynnand ouer his heillis.

MORALITAS.

THIS Taill is myngit with Moralitie, 2195
 As I sall schaw sumquhat, or that I ceis :
 The Foxe vnto the world may likkinnit be,
 The reuand Uolf vnto ane man but leis,
 The Cadgear Deith, quhome vnder all man preis :
 That euer tuke lyfe throw cours of kynd man dee, 2200
 As man, and beist, and fische in to the see.

¶ The world, 3e wait, is Stewart to the man,
 Quhilk may mak man to haif na mynd of Deid,
 Bot settis for winning all the craftis thay can ;
 The Hering I likkin vnto the gold sa reid, 2205
 Quhilk gart the Uolf in perrell put his heid :
 Richt swa the gold garris land, certeis,¹
 With weir be waistit, daylie as men seis.

¹ See the better reading on p. 163.

[HARLEIAN

He that of ressoun can not be content,
 Bot couetis all, is abill all to tyne.
 The foxe, quhen that he saw the wolf wes schent,
 Said to him selff, 'thir hering salbe myne ;' 2185

F. 57 a. I le, or ellis he was efterwart fyne
 That fand sic wayis his maister for to greif :
 With all the fische thus lowrence tuik his leif.

The wolf was neir weill dungin to the deid,
 That vneith with his lyfe away he wan, 2190
 For with the bastoun weill brokin wes his heid.
 The foxe in to his den sone drew him than,
 That had betraisit his maister and the man :
 The ane wantit the hering of his creillis,
 The vtheris blude was ryznand ouer his heillis. 2195

Moralitas.

This taill is mingit with moralitie,
 As I sall schaw sum quhat, or that I ceis :
 The foxe vnto the warld may likkinnit be,
 The reuand wolf vnto ane man but leis,
 The cadger deith, quhome vnder all men preis : 2200
 That euer tuik lyfe throw cours of kynd man die,
 As man, and beist, and fische in to the see.

The warld, ze wait, is stewart to the man,
 Quhilk makis man to haif na mynd of deid,
 Bot settis for wyzning all the craft thay can ; 2205
 The hering I likkin vnto the gold sa reid,
 Quhilk gart the wolf in perrell put his heid :
 Richt swa the gold garris landis and cieteis

F. 57 b. With weir be waistit, daylie as men seis.

CHARTERIS]

And as the Foxe with dissimulance and gyle
 Gart the Uolf wene to haif worschip for euer, 2210
 Richt swa this warld with vane glorie for ane quhyle
 Flatteris with folk, as thay suld failze neuer,
 3it suddandlie men seis it oft disseuer ;
 With thame that trowis oft to fill the sek,
 Deith cummis behind and nippis thame be the nek. 2215

The micht of gold makis mony men sa blind,
 That settis on Auarice thair felicitie,
 That thay forzet the Cadgear cummis behind
 To strike thame, of quhat stait sa euer thay be.
 Quhat is mair dirk than blind prosperitie? 2220
 Quhairfoir I counsell mychtie men to haif mynd
 Of the Nekhering, Interpret in this kynd.

❧ FINIS.

❧ THE TAILL OF THE FOXE THAT BEGYLIT
 THE UOLF IN THE SCHADOW OF THE
 MOVE.

I N ELDERIS dayis, as Esope can declair,
 Thair wes ane Husband, quhilk had ane pleuch to steir.
 His vse wes ay in morning to Ryse air ; 2225
 Sa happinnit him in streiking tyme of 3eir
 Airlie in the morning to follow furth his feir,
 Unto the pleuch, bot his gadman and he ;
 His stottis he straucht with ' Benedicite.'

[HARLEIAN

And as the foxe with dissimulance and gile 2210
 Gart the wolf wene to haif worschip for euer,
 Richt swa this warld with vane gloir for ane quhile
 Flatteris with folk, as thay suld failze neuer,
 3it suddandlie men seis it oft disseuer;
 With thame that trowis oft to fill the sek, 2215
 Deith cummis behind and nippis thame be the nek.

The micht of gold makis mony men [sa¹] blind,
 That settis on auerice thair felicitie,
 That thay forzet the cadger cummis behind
 To stryke thame, of quhat stait so euer thay be. 2220
 Quhat is mair dirk than blind prosperitie?
 Quhairfoir I counsall michtie men to haif mynd
 Of the nekhering, interpret in this kynd.

Finis.

F. 58 a. The taill of the fore that begilit
 the wolf in the schadow of the mone.

In elderis dayis, as esope can declair, 2224
 Thair wes ane husband, quhilk had ane pleuch to steir.
 His vse wes ay in morning to ryis air;
 Swa happynnit him in streiking tyme of zeir
 Airlie in the morning to follow furth his feir,
 Vnto the pleuch, bot his gadman and he;
 His stottis he straucht with 'benedicite.' 2230

¹ See p. 164.

CHARTERIS]

The Caller cryit : 'how, haik vpon hicht ; 2230
 Hald draucht, my dowis ;' syne broddit thame full sair.
 The Oxin wes vnwsit, 3oung, and licht,
 And for fersnes thay couth the fur forfair.¹
 The Husband than woxe angrie as ane hair,
 Syne cryit, and caist his Patill and greit stanis : 2235
 'The Uolf,' quod he, 'mot haif 3ow all at anis.'

Bot 3it the Uolf wes neirar nor he wend,
 For in ane busk he lay, and Lowrence baith,
 In ane Rouch Rone, wes at the furris end,
 And hard the hecht ; than Lowrence leuch full raith : 2240
 'To tak 3one bud,' quod he, 'it wer na skaith.'
 'Weill,' quod the Uolf, 'I hecht the be my hand ;
 3one Carllis word, as he wer king, sall stand.'

The oxin eirit mair reullie at the last ;
 Syne efter thay lousit, fra that it worthit weill lait ; 2245
 The Husband hamewart with his cattell past.
 Than sone the Uolf come hirpilland in his gait,
 Befoir the Oxin, and schupe to mak debait.
 The Husband saw him, and worthit sumdeill agast,
 And bakwart with his beistis wald haif past. 2250

The Uolf said, 'quhether dryuis thow this, Pray ?
 I challenge it, for nane of thame ar thyne.'
 The man thairof wes in ane felloun fray,
 And soberlie to the Uolf answerit syne :
 'Schir, be my Saull, thir oxin ar all myne ; 2255
 Thairfoir I studie quhy 3e suld stop me,
 Sen that I faltit neuer to 3ow, trewlie.'

¹ Hart, 'forfraire.'

[HARLEIAN

The caller cryit : 'how, haik vpoun hicht ;
 Hald draucht, my dowis ;' syne broddit thame full sair.
 The oxin wes vnwsit, 3oung, and licht,
 And for fersnes thay couth the fur forfair.
 The husband than woxe angrie as ane hair, 2235
 Syne cryit, and caist his patill and grit stanis :
 'The wolf,' quod he, 'mot haif 3ow all at anis.'

Bot 3it the wolf was neirar nor he wend,
 For in ane busk he lay, and lowrence baith,
 In ane ruch rone, was at the furris end, 2240
 And hard the hecht ; than lowrence leuch full raith :
 'To tak 3one bud,' quod he, 'it war na skaith.'
 'Weill,' quod the wolf, 'I hecht the be my hand ;
 3one carlis word, as he war king, sall stand.'

F. 58 b. The oxin waxit mair reulie at the last ; 2245
 Syne efter thay lousit, fra that it worthit weill lait ;
 The husband hamewart w^{it}z his cattell past.
 Than sone the wolf come hirpilland in his gait,
 Befoir the oxin, and schupe to mak debait.
 The husband saw him, and worthit sum deill agast, 2250
 And bakwart with his beistis wald haif past.

The wolf said, 'quhether dryuis thow this, pray ?
 I chalenge it, for nane of thame ar thine.'
 The man thairof was in ane felloun fray,
 And soberlie to the wolf answerit syne : 2255
 'Schir, be my saule, thir oxin ar all myne ;
 Thairfoir I studdie quhy 3e suld stop me,
 Sen that I faltit neuer to 3ow, trewlie.'

CHARTERIS]

The Uolf said, 'Carle, gaif thow not me this drift
 Airlie, quhen thow wes eirand on 3one bank?
 And is thair oucht, sayis thow, frear than gift? 2260
 This tarying will tyne the all thy thank;
 Far better is frelie for to gif ane plank
 Nor be compellit on force to gif ane mark.
 Fy on the fredome that cummis not with hart!'

'Schir,' quod the husband, 'ane man may say in greif, 2265
 And syne ganesay, fra he auise and se:
 I hecht to steill, am I thairfoir ane theif?'
 'God forbid, Schir, all hechtis suld haldin be!'
 'Gaif I my hand or obblissing?' quod he,
 'Or haif 3e witnes or writ for to schaw? 2270
 Schir, reif me not, but go and seik the Law.'

'Carll,' quod the Uolf, 'ane Lord, and he be leill,
 That schrinkis for schame, or doutis to be reprufit,
 His saw is ay als sickker as his Seill.
 Fy on the Leid that is not leill and lufit! 2275
 Thy argument is fals, and eik contrufit,
 For it is said in Prouerb: "But lawte
 All vther vertewis ar nocht worth ane fle."'

'Schir,' said the husband, 'remember of this thing:
 Ane¹ leill man is not tane at half ane taill. 2280
 I may say, and ganesay, I am na King:
 Quhair is 3our witnes *that* hard I hecht thame hail?'
 Than said the Uolf, 'thairfoir it sall nocht fail;
 Lowrence,' quod he, 'cum hidder of that Schaw,
 And say na thing bot as thow hard and saw.' 2285

¹ Orig. 'And.'

[HARLEIAN

The wolf said, 'carle, gaif thow not me this drift
 Airlie, quhen thow wes eirrand on 3one bank? 2260
 And is thair oucht, sayis thow, frear than gift?
 This tarying will tyne the all thy thank;
 For better is frelie for to gif ane plank
 Nor be compellit on force to gif ane mart.
 Fy on the fredome that cummis not with hart!' 2265

'Schir,' quod the husband, 'ane man may say in greif,
 F. 59 a. And syne gane say, fra he auise and se:
 I hecht to steill, am I thairfoir ane theif?'
 'God forbid, schir, all hechtis suld haldin be!'
 'Gaif I my hand or obliissing?' quod he, 2270
 'Or haif 3e writ or witnes for to schaw?
 Schir, reif me not, but go and seik the law.'

'Carle,' quod the wolf, 'ane lord, and he be leill,
 That schrinkis for schame, or doutis to be repruuit,
 His saw is ay als sickker as his seill. 2275
 Fy on the leid that is not leill and luifit!
 Thy argument is fals, and eik contruifit,
 For it is said in prouerb: "but lawte
 All vther vertewis ar not worth ane fle."'

'Schir,' said the husband, 'remember of this thing: 2280
 Ane¹ leill man is not tane at half ane taill.
 I may say, and ganesay, I am na king:
 Quhair is 3our witnes that hard I hecht thame hai[ll]¹?'
 Than said the wolf, 'thairfoir it sall not faill;
 Lowrence,' quod he, 'cum hidder of that schaw, 2285
 And say na thing bot as thow hard and saw.'

¹ Clipped by the binder.

CHARTERIS]

[Lowrence come lourand, for he lufit neuer licht,
 And sone appeirit befor thame in that place :
 The man leuch na thing, quhen he saw that sicht.
 ‘Lowrence,’ quod the Uolf, ‘thow man declair *this* cace,
 Quhair of we sall schaw the suith in schort space ; 2290
 I callit on the leill witnes for to beir :
 Quhat hard thow that this man hecht me lang eir ?’

‘Schir,’ said the Tod, ‘I can not hastelie
 Swa sone as now gif sentence finall ;
 Bot wald 3e baith submit 3ow heir to me, 2295
 To stand at my decreit perpetuall,
 To pleis baith I suld preif, gif it may fall.’
 ‘Weill,’ quod the Uolf, ‘I am content for me :’
 The man said, ‘swa am I, how euer it be.’

Than schew thay furth thair allegeance but fabill, 2300
 And baith proponit thair pley to him compleit.
 Quod Lowrence : ‘now I am ane Iuge amycabill :
 3e sall be sworne to stand at my decreit,
 Quhether heirefter 3e think it soure or sweet.’
 The Uolf braid furth his fute, the man his hand, 2305
 And on the Toddis Tail sworne thay ar to stand.

Than tuke the Tod the man furth till ane syde,
 And said him : ‘freind, thow art in blunder brocht ;
 The Uolf will not forgif the ane Oxe hyde,
 3it wald my self fane help the, and I mocht ; 2310
 Bot I am laith to hurt my conscience ocht.
 Tyne not thy querell in thy awin defence ;
 This will not throw, but greit coist and expence.

[HARLEIAN

Lowrence come lowrand, for he luifit neuer licht,
And sone appeirit befor thame in that place :

F. 59 b. The man lewch na thing, quhen he saw that sicht. 2289
'Lawrence,' quod the wolf, 'thow man declair this cace,
Quhairof we sall schaw the suith in schort space ;
I callit on the leill wïtnes for to beir :
Quhat hard thow that this man hecht me lang eir ?'

'Schir,' said the tod, 'I can not hastelie
Swa sone as now gif sentence finall ; 2295
Bot wald 3e baith submit 3ow heir to me,
To stand at my decreit perpetuall,
To pleis baith I suld preif, gif it may fall.'
'Weill,' quod the wolf, 'I am content for me :'
The man said, 'swa am I, how euer it be.' 2300

Than schew thay furth thair allegiance but fabill,
And baith proponit thair pley to him compleit.
Quod lowrence : 'now I am iuge amicable :
3e salbe sworne to stand at my decreit,
Quhether heirefter 3e think it soure or sweet.' 2305
The wolf braid furth his fute, the man his hand,
And on the toddis taill sworne thay ar to stand.

Than tuik the tod the man furth to ane side,
And said him : 'freind, thow art in blunder brocht ;
The wolf will not forgif the ane ox hide, 2310
F. 60 a. 3it wald my self fane help the, and I mocht ;
Bot I am laith to hurt my conscience ocht.
Tyne not thy quarell in thy awin defence ;
This will not throw, but grit coist and expence.

CHARTERIS]

¶ 'Seis thow not Buddis beiris Bernis throw,
 And giftis garris crukit materis hald full euin? 2315
 Sumtymis ane nedill haldis ane man in ane Kow.
 All ar not halie that heifis thair handis to heuin.'
 'Schir,' said the man, '3e sall haif sex or seuin,
 Richt of the fattest hennis of all the floik :
 I compt not all the laif, leif me the Coik. 2320

'I am ane Iuge,' quod Lowrence than, and leuch ;
 'Thair is na Buddis suld beir me by the rycht ;
 I may tak hennis and Caponis weill aneuch,
 For God is gane to sleip ; as for this nycht,
 Sic small thingis ar not sene in to his sycht ; 2325
 Thir hennis,' quod he, 'sall mak thy querrell sure,
 With emptie hand na man suld Halkis lure.'

Concord in this, than Lowrence tuke his leif,
 And to the Uolf he went in to ane ling ;
 Syne priuelie he plukkit him be the sleif : 2330
 'Is this in ernist,' quod he, '3e ask sic thing ?
 Na, be my Saull, I trow it be in hething.'
 Than said the Uolf : 'Lowrence, quhy sayis thow sa ?
 Thow hard the hecht thy self that he couth ma.'

'The hecht,' quod he, '3one man maid at the pleuch, 2335
 Is that the cause quhy 3e the cattell craif ?'
 Half in to heithing, said Lowrence than, and leuch ;
 'Schir, be the Rude, vnroikkit now 3e raif ;
 The Deuill ane stirk tail thairfoir sall 3e haif ;
 Wald I tak it vpon my conscience 2340
 To do sa pure ane man as 3one offence ?

[HARLEIAN

'Seis thow not buddis beris bernis throw, 2315
 And giftis garris cruikit materis hald full evin?
 Sum tymes ane hen haldis ane man in ane kow.
 All ar not halie that heifis thair handis to heuin.'
 'Schir,' said the man, '3e sall haif sex or sevin,
 Richt of the fattest hennis of all the flok : 2320
 I compt not all the laif, leif me the cok.'

'I am ane iuge,' quod lawrence than, and leuch ;
 'Thair is na buddis suld beir me by the richt ;
 I may tak hennis and caponis weill aneuch,
 For god is gane to sleip ; as for this nicht, 2325
 Sic small thingis ar not sene in to his sicht ;
 Thir hennis,' quod he, 'sall mak thy quarell sure,
 Wit~~h~~ emptie hand na man suld halkis lure.'

Concordit thus, than lawrence tuik his leiff,
 And to the wolff he went in to ane ling ; 2330
 Syne preuelie he plukkit him be the sleiff :
 F. 60 b. 'Is this,' quod he, 'in eirnist 3e ask sic thing?
 Na, be my saule, I trow it be in heithing.'
 Than said the wolff : 'lowrence, quhy sayis thow sa?
 Thow hard the hecht thy self that he couth ma.' 2335

'The hecht,' quod he, '3one man maid at the pleuch,
 Is that the caus quhy 3e the cattell craif?'
 Half in to heithing, said lowrence than, and leuch ;
 'Schir, be the rude, vnrokkit now 3e raif ;
 The deuill ane stirk taill thairfoir sall 3e haif ; 2340
 Wald I tak it vpoun my conscience
 To do sa pure ane man as 3one offence?

CHARTERIS]

¶ ‘Ȝit haif I communit with the Carll,’ quod he ;
 ‘We ar concordit vpon this cunnand :
 Quyte of all clamis, swa Ȝe will mak him fre,
 Ȝe sall ane Cabok haif in to Ȝour hand, 2345
 That sic ane sall not be in all this land ;
 For it is Somer Cheis, baith fresche and fair ;
 He sayis it weyis ane stane and sumdeill mair.’

‘Is that thy counsell,’ quod the Uolf, ‘I do,
 That Ȝone Carll for ane Cabok suld be fre?’ 2350
 ‘Ȝe, be my Saull, and I wer sworne Ȝow to,
 Ȝe suld nane vther counsell haif for me ;
 For gang Ȝe to the maist extremitie,
 It will not wyn Ȝow worth ane widderit neip ;
 Schir, trow Ȝe nocht, I haif ane Saull to keip!’ 2355

‘Weill,’ quod the Uolf, ‘it is aganis my will
 That Ȝone Carll for ane Cabok suld ga quyte.’
 ‘Schir,’ quod the Tod, ‘Ȝe tak it in nane euill,
 For, be my Saull, Ȝour self had all the wyte.’
 ‘Than,’ said the Uolf, ‘I bid na mair to flyte, 2360
 Bot I wald se Ȝone Cabok of sic prysis.’
 ‘Schir,’ said the Tod, ‘he tauld me quhar it lyis.’

Than hand in hand thay held vnto ane hill ;
 The Husband till his hors hes tane the way,
 For he wes fane ; he schaipit from thair euill, 2365
 And on his feit woke the dure quhill day.
 Now will we turne vnto the vther tway.
 Throw woddis waist thir Freikis on fute can fair,
 Fra busk to busk, quhill neir midnycht and mair.

[HARLEIAN

'3it haif I communit *wit* the carle,' quod he;
 'We ar concordit vpoun this cunnand:
 Quit of all clames, swa 3e will mak him fre, 2345
 3e sall ane cabok haif in to 3our hand,
 That sic ane sall not be in all this land;
 For it is somer cheis, baith fresche and fair;
 He sayis it weyis ane stane and sum deill mair.'

'Is that thy counsale,' quod the wolf, 'I do, 2350
 That 3one carle for ane cabok suld be fre?'
 '3e, be my saule, and I war sworne 3ow to,
 F. 61 a. 3e suld na vther counsall haif for me;
 For gang 3e to the maist extremitie,
 It will not win 3ow worth ane widderit neip; 2355
 Schir, trow 3e not, I haif ane saule to keip!'

'Weill,' quod the wolf, 'it is aganis my will
 That 3one carle for ane cabok suld ga quite.'
 'Schir,' quod the tod, '3e tak it in na euill,
 For, be my saule, 3our self had all the wyte.' 2360
 'Than,' said the wolf, 'I bid na mair to flyte,
 Bot I wald se 3one cabok of sic prysis.'
 'Schir,' said the tod, 'he tauld me quhair it lyis.'

Than hand in hand thay held vnto ane hill;
 The husband to his hors hes tane the way, 2365
 For he wes fane; he chaipit frome thair ill,
 And on his feit wouke the dur quhill day.
 Now will we turne vnto the vther tway.
 Throw woddis waist thir freikis on fute can fair,
 Fra busk to busk, quhill neir mydnicht and mair. 2370

CHARTERIS]

Lowrence wes euer remembring vpon wrinkis 2370
 And subtelteis the Uolf for to begyle;
 That he had hecht ane Caboik, he forthinkis,
 3it at the last he findis furth ane wyle,
 Than at him self softlie couth he smyle.
 The Uolf sayis, 'Lowrence, thow playis bellie blind: 2375
 We seik all nycht, bot na thing can we find.'

¶ 'Schir,' said the Tod, 'we ar at it almaist;
 Soft 3ow ane lytill, and 3e sall se it sone.'
 Than to ane Manure place thay hyit in haist:
 The nicht wes lycht, and pennyfull the Mone. 2380
 Than till ane draw wel thir Sen3eouris past but hone,
 Quhar that twa bukkettis seuerall suithlie hang;
 As ane come vp, ane vther doun wald gang.

The schadow of the Mone schone in the well.
 'Schir,' said Lowrence, 'anis 3e sall find me leill; 2385
 Now se 3e not the Caboik weill 3our sell,
 Quhyte as ane Neip, and round ¹ als as ane schell?
 He hang it 3onder, that ² na man suld it steill:
 Schir, traist 3e weill, 3one Caboik 3e se hing
 Micht be ane presen[t] to our Lord the King.' 2390

'Na,' quod the Uolf, 'mycht I 3one Caboik haif
 On the dry land, as I it 3onder se,
 I wald quitclame the Carll of all the laif;
 His dart Oxin I compt thame not ane fle;
 3one wer mair meit for sic ane man as me. 2395
 Lowrence,' quod he, 'leip in the bukket sone,
 And I sall hald the ane, quhill thow haif done.'

¹ Orig. 'and als round.'² Orig. 'than.'

[HARLEIAN

Lowrence wes euer remembring vpoun wrinkis
 And subtelteis the wolf for to begyle;
 That he had hecht ane cabok he forthinkis,
 3it at the last he findis furth ane wyle,

F. 61 b. Than at him self softlie couth he smyle. 2375

The wolf sayis, 'lowrence, thow playis bellie blind;
 We seik all nycht, bot na thing can we find.'

'Schir,' said the tod, 'we ar at it almaist;
 Soft 3ow ane litill, and 3e sall se it sone.'
 Than to ane manure place thay hyit in haist: 2380
 The nicht was licht, and penny full the mone.
 Than till ane draw well thir sein3eouris past but hone,
 Quhair that twa bukkettis seuerall suithlie hang;
 As ane come vp, ane vther doun wald gang.

The schadow of the mone schone in the well. 2385
 'Schir,' said lowrence, 'anis 3e sall find me leill;
 Now se 3e not the cabok weill 3our sell,
 Quhite as ane neip, and round als as ane seill?
 He hang it 3onder, that na man suld it steill:
 Schir, traist 3e weill, 3one caboik 3e se hing 2390
 Micht be ane present to ony lord or king.'

'Na,' quod the wolf, 'micht I 3one caboik haif
 On the dry land, as I it 3onder se,
 I wald quitclame the carle of all the laif;
 His dart oxin I compt thame not ane fle; 2395
 3one war mair meit for sic ane man as me.

Lowrence,' quod he, 'leip in the bukket sone,

F. 62 a. And I sall hald the ane, quhill thow haif done.'

CHARTERIS]

Lowrence gird doun baith sone and subtellie ;
 The vther baid abufe, and held the flaill.
 'It is sa mekill,' quod Lowrence, 'it maisteris me, 2400
 On all my tais it hes not left ane naill ;
 3e man mak help vpwart, and it haill :
 Leip in the vther bukket haistelie,
 And cum sone doun, and make me sum supple.'

¶ Than lychtlie in the bukket lap the loun ; 2405
 His wecht but weir the vther end gart ryis ;
 The Tod come hailland vp, the Uolf 3eid doun ;
 Than angerlie the Uolf upon him cryis :
 'I cummand thus dounwart, quhy thow vpwart hyis ?'
 'Schir,' quod the Tod, 'thus fairis it of fortoun : 2410
 As ane cummis vp, scho qubeillis ane vther doun !'

Than to the ground sone 3eid the Uolf in haist ;
 The Tod lap on land, as blyith as ony bell,
 And left the Uolf in watter to the waist.
 Quha haillit him out, I wait not, of the well. 2415
 Heir endis the Text ; thair is na mair to tell.
 3it men may find agane moralitie
 In this sentence, thocht it ane Fabill be.

MORALITAS.

THIS Uolf I likkin to ane wickit man,
 Quhilk dois the pure oppres in euerie place, 2420
 And pykis at thame all querrellis that he can,
 Be Rigour, reif, and vther wickitnes.
 The Foxe the Feynd I call in to this cais,
 Actand¹ ilk man to ryn vnrychteous rinkis,
 Thinkand thairthrow to lok him in his linkis. 2425

¹ Orig. 'Arctand.'

[HARLEIAN

Lowrence gird doun baith sone and subtellie ;
 The vther baid abuif, and held the flaill. 2400
 ‘It is sa mekill,’ quod lowrence, ‘it maisteris me,
 On all my tais it hes not left ane naill;
 3e man mak help vpwart, and it haill :
 Leip in the vther bukhet haistelie,
 And cum sone doun, and mak me sum supplie.’ 2405

Than lichtlie in the bukhet lap the loun ;
 His wecht but weir the vther end gart ryis ;
 The tod come hailland vp, the wolf 3eid doun ;
 Than angerlie the wolf upoun him cryis : 2409
 ‘I cummand thus dounwart, quhy thow vpwart hyis ?’
 ‘Schir,’ said the foxe, ‘this fair is of fortoun :
 As ane cummis vp, scho quheillis ane vther doun !’

Than to the ground sone 3ude the wolf in haist ;
 The tod lap on land, as blyith as ony bell,
 And left the wolf in watter to the waist. 2415
 Quha haillit him out, I wait not, of the well.
 Heir endis the text ; thair is na mair to tell.
 3it men may find ane gude moralitie
 In this sentence, thocht it ane fabill be.

F. 62 b.

Moralitas.

This wolf I likkin to ane wickit man, 2420
 Quhilk dois the pure oppres in euerie place,
 And pykis at thame all quarrellis that he can,
 Be rigour, reif, and vther wickitnes.
 The foxe the feind I call in to this cais,
 Actand ilk man to rin vnrichtious rinkis, 2425
 Thinkand thairthrow to lok him in his linkis.

CHARTERIS]

The Husband may be callit ane godlie man,
 With quhome the Feynd falt findis, as Clerkis reid*is*,
 Besie to tempt him with all wayis that he can.
 The hennis ar warkis *that* fra ferme faith proceid*is* : 2429
 Quhair sic sproutis spreid*is*, *the* euill spreit *thair* not speid*is*,
 Bot wendis vnto the wickit man agane ;
 That he hes tint his trauell is full vnfane.

¶ The wodd*is* waist, quhairin wes the Uolf wyld,
 Ar wickit riches, quhilk all men gaipis to get ;
 Quha traistis in sic Trusterie ar oft begyld ; 2435
 For Mammon may be callit the Deuillis Net,
 Quhilk Sathanas for all sinfull hes set.
 With proud plesour quha settis his traist thairin,
 But speciall grace, lychtlie can not outwin.

The Cabok may be callit Couetyce, 2440
 Quhilk blomis braid in mony mannis Ee ;
 Ua worth the well of that wickit vyce !
 For it is all bot fraud and fantasie,
 Dryuand ilk man to leip in the buttrie
 That dounwart drawis vnto the pane of hell.— 2445
 Christ keip all christianis frome that wickit well !

¶ FINIS.

[HARLEIAN

The husband may be callit ane godlie man,
 With quhome the feind faltis findes, as clerkis reidis,
 Besie to tempt him *wit* all wayis that he can.
 The hennis ar warkis that fra ferme faith proceidis: 2430
 Quhair sic sproutis spreidis, the euill spreit *hair* not speid[is],¹
 Bot wendis vnto the wickit man agane;
 That he hes tint his trauell is full vnfane.

The woddis waist, quhairin wes the wolf wyld,
 Ar wickit riches, quhilk all men gaipis to get; 2435
 Quha traistis in sic trustrie ar oft begyld;
 For mammon may be callit the deuillis net,
 Quhilk sathanas for all sinfull hes set.
 With proud plesour quha settis his traist thairin,
 But speciall grace, lichtlie can not outwin. 2440

The caboik may be callit couetice,
 F. 63 a. Quhilk blomes braid in mony *marnis*² ee;
 Wa worth the well of that wickit vyce!
 For it is all bot fraud and fantasie,
 Dryuand ilk man to leip in the buttrie 2445
 That dounwart drawis vnto the pane of hell.—
 Christ keip all christianis frome that wickit well!

Finis.

¹ Clipped by the binder.² MS. 'marnis.'

CHARTERIS]

¶ THE TAILL OF THE UOLF AND
THE UEDDER.

QUHYLUM thair wes, as Esope can Report,
Ane scheiphird dwelland be an Forrest neir,
Quhilk had ane Hound *that* did him greit comfort;
Full war he wes to walk his Fauld but weir, 2450
that nouthir Uolf nor Uildcat durst appeir,
Nor Foxe on feild, nor 3it na vther beist,
Bot he thame slew, or chaissit at the leist.

Sa happinnit it, as euerilk beist man de,
This Hound of suddand seiknes to be deid; 2455
Bot than, God wait, the keipar of the fe
For verray wo woxe wanner nor the weid:
'Allace,' quod he, 'now se I na remeid
To saif the selie beistis that I keip,
For wit the Uolf werryit beis all my scheip.' 2460

¶ It wald haif maid ane manniss hart sair to se
The selie scheiphirdis lamentatioun:
'Now is my Darling deid, allace,' quod he;
'For now to beg my breid I may be boun,
With pyikstaf and with scrip to fair of toun; 2465
For all the beistis befor bandonit bene
Will schute vpon my beistis with Ire and tene.'

With that ane Uedder wrechitlie wan on fute:
'Maister,' quod he, 'mak merie and be blyith;
To brek 3our hart for baill it is na bute; 2470
For ane deid Doig 3e na cair on 3ow kyth.
Ga feche him hithor, and fla his skyn of swyith;
Syne sew it on me; and luke that it be meit,
Baith heid, and crag, bodie, taill, and feit.

[HARLEIAN

F. 63 *b*. The taill of the wolf & the wedder.

Qubylum thair wes, as esope can report,
 Ane scheiphird duelland be ane forrest neir,
 Quhilk had ane hound that did him grit comfort ; 2450
 Full war he wes to walk his fauld but weir,
 that nouthur wolf nor wyld cat durst appeir,
 Nor foxe on feild, nor 3it na vther beist,
 Bot he thame slew, or chaissit at the leist.

Swa happynnit it, as euerie beist man de, 2455
 This hound of suddane seiknes to be deid ;
 Bot than, god wait, the keipar of the fe
 For verray wo woxe wanner nor the weid :
 ‘Allace,’ quod he, ‘now se I na remeid
 To saif the selie beistis that I keip, 2460
 For wit the wolf werryit beis all my scheip.’

It wald haif maid ane mannis hart sair to se
 The selie schiphirdis lamentatioun :
 ‘Now is my darling deid, allace,’ quod he ;
 ‘For now to beg my breid I may me boun, 2465
 With pykestaff and with scrip to fair of touñ ;
 For all the beistis before bandonit bene
 Will schute vpoun my beistis with ire and tene.’

F. 64 *a*. With that ane wedder wretchitlie wan on fute :
 ‘Maister,’ quod he, ‘mak merie and be blyith ; 2470
 To brek 3our hart for baill it is na bute ;
 For ane deid dog 3e na cair on 3ow kyith.
 Ga fetche him hidder, and fla his skin of swyth ;
 Syne sew it on me ; and luik that it be meit,
 Bodie and heid, baith taill, crag, and feit. 2475

CHARTERIS]

'Than will the Uolf trow that I am he ; 2475
 For I sall follow him fast quhair euer he fair.
 All hail, the cure I tak it vpon me,
 Your scheip to keip at midday, lait and air.
 And he persew, be God, I sall not spair
 To follow him als fast as did your Doig, 2480
 Swa that, I warrand, ye sall not want ane hoig.'

'Than,' said the scheiphird, 'this come of ane gude wit ;
 Thy counsell is baith sikker, leill, and trew ;
 Quha sayis ane scheip is daft, thay lieit of it.'
 With that in hy the Doggis skyn of he flew, 2485
 And on the scheip rycht softlie couth it sew.
 Than worth the Uedder wantoun of his weid :
 'Now of the Uolf,' quod he, 'I haif na dreid.'

¶ In all thingis he counterfait the Dog ;
 For all the nicht he stude and tuke na sleip, 2490
 Swa that weill lang thay wantit not ane Hog.
 Swa war he wes and walkryfe thame to keip,
 That Lowrence durst not luke vpon ane scheip ;
 For and he did, he followit him sa fast,
 That of his lyfe he maid him all agast. 2495

Was nouthier Uolf, Uildcat, nor zit Tod
 Durst cum within thay boundis all about,
 Bot he wald chace thame baith throw rouch & snod.
 Thay bailfull beistis had of thair lyuis sic dout,
 For he wes mekill and semit to be stout, 2500
 That euerilk beist thay dred him as the deid,
 Within that woid, that nane durst hald thair heid.

[HARLEIAN

'Than will the wolf trow that I am he ;
 For I sall follow him fast quhair euer he fair.
 All haill, the cure I tak it vpoun me,
 3our scheip to keip at midday, lait and air.
 And he persew, be god, I sall not spair 2480
 To follow him als fast as did 3our doge,
 Swa that, I warrand, 3e sall not want ane hoig.'

'Than,' said the scheiphird, 'this come of ane gude wit ;
 Thy counsall is baith sickker, leill, and trew ;
 Quha sayis ane scheip is daft, thay leit of it.' 2485
 With that in hy the dogis skin of he flew,
 And on the scheip richt softlie couth it sew.
 Than worth the wedder wantoun of his weid :
 'Now of the wolf,' quod he, 'I haif na dreid.'

In all thingis he counterfait the dog ; 2490
 For all the nicht he stuid and tuik na sleip,
 F. 64 b. Swa that weill lang thair wantit not ane hog.
 Swa war he was and walkryfe thame to keip,
 That lowrence durst not luik vpoun ane scheip ;
 For and he did, he followit him sa fast, 2495
 That of his lyfe he maid him all agast.

Was nouthur wolf, wyldcat, nor 3it tod
 Durst cum within thay boundis all about,
 Bot he wald chais thame baith throw rouch and snod.
 Thay bailfull beistis had of thair lyfis sic dout, 2500
 For he wes mekle and semit to be stout,
 That euerie beist thay dred him as the deid,
 Within that wod, that nane durst hald thair heid.

CHARTERIS]

3it happinnit thair ane hungrie Uolf to slyde
 Out throw his scheip, quhair thay lay on ane le ;
 'I sall haif ane,' quod he, 'quhat euer betyde, 2505
 Thocht I be werryit, for hunger or I de ;'
 With that ane lamb in till his cluke hint he.
 The laif start vp, for thay wer all agast ;
 Bot god wait gif the Uedder followit fast.

Went neuer Hound mair haistelie fra the hand, 2510
 Quhen he wes rynnand maist raklie at the ra,
 Nor went this Uedder baith ouer Mois and strand,
 And stoppit nouthar at bank, busk, nor bra ;
 Bot followit ay sa ferslie on his fa,
 With sic ane Drift, quhill dust and dirt ouerdraif him, 2515
 And maid ane wow to God that he suld haif him.

¶ With that the Uolf let out his Taill on lenth,
 For he wes hungrie, and it drew neir the euin,
 And schupe him for to ryn with all his strenth,
 Fra he the Uedder sa neir cummand had sene. 2520
 He Dred his lyfe, and he ouertane had bene ;
 Thairfoir he spairit nouthar busk nor boig,
 For weill he kennit the cunning¹ of the Doig.

'To mak him lycht, he kest the Lamb him fra,
 Syne lap ouer leis, and draif throw dub and myre. 2525
 'Na,' quod the wedder, 'in Faith we part not swa :
 It is not the Lamb, bot the, that I desyre ;
 I sall cum neir, for now I se the tyre.'
 The Uolf ran till ane rekill stude behind him,
 Bot ay the neirar the Uedder to couth wyn him. 2530

¹ Orig. 'cumming.'

[HARLEIAN

3it happy~~n~~nit thair ane hungrie wolf to slide
 Out throw his scheip, quhair thay lay on ane le ; 2505
 'I sall haif ane,' quod he, 'quhat euer betyde,
 Thocht I be werryit, for hunger or I de ;'
 With that ane lamb in to his cluke hint he.
 The laif start vp, for thay war all agast ;
 Bot god wait gif the wedder followit fast. 2510

Went neuer hound mair haistelie fra the hand,
 Quhen he wes rynnand maist raklie at the ra,
 Nor went this wedder baith ouer mois & strand,
 F. 65 a. And stoppit nouthar at bank, busk, nor bra ;
 Bot followit ay sa ferslie on his fa, 2515
 With sic ane drift, quhill dirt and dust ouer draif him,
 And maid ane vow to god that he suld haif him.

With that the wolf let out his taill on lenth,
 For he wes hungrie, and it drew neir the ene,
 And schupe him for to rin *wit*h all his strent~~h~~, 2520
 Fra he the wedder sa neir cumand had sene.
 He dred his lyfe, and he ouertane had bene ;
 Thairfoir he spairit nouthar busk nor boig,
 For weill he kennit the kenenes of the doig.

To mak him licht, he caist the lamb him fra, 2525
 Syne lap ouer leis, and draif throw dub & myre.
 'Na,' quod the wedder, 'in faith we part not swa :
 It is not the lamb, bot the, that I desire ;
 I sall cum neir, for now I se the tyre.'
 The wolf ran still quhill ane strand stuid behind him,
 Bot ay the neirar the wedder he couth bind him. 2531

CHARTERIS]

Sone efter that he followit him sa neir,
 Quhill that the Uolf for fleidnes fylit the feild ;
 Syne left the gait, and ran throw busk and breir,
 And schupe him fra the schawis for to scheild.
 He ran restles, for he wist of na weild ; 2535
 The wedder followit him baith out and in,
 Quhill that ane breir busk raif rudelie of the skyn.

The Uolf wes wer, and blenkit him behind,
 And saw the Uedder come thrawand throw the breir ;
 Syne saw the Doggis skyn hingand on his lind. 2540
 'Na,' quod he, 'is this 3e that is sa neir ?
 Richt now ane Hound, and now quhyte as ane Freir :
 I fled ouer fer, and I had kennit the cais :
 To God I wow that 3e sall rew this rais.

'Quhat wes the cause 3e gaif me sic ane cache¹ ?' 2545
 With that in hy he hint him be the horne.
 'For all 3our mowis 3e met anis with 3our mache,
 Suppois 3e leuch me all this 3eir to scorne.
 For quhat enchessoun this Doggis skyn haif 3e borne ?'
 'Maister,' quod he, 'bot to haif playit with 3ow ; 2550
 I 3ow requyre that 3e nane vther trow.'

¶ 'Is this 3our bourding in eirnist than ?' quod he,
 'For I am verray effeirit, and on flocht ;
 Cum bak agane and I sall let 3ow se.'
 Than quhair the gait wes grimmit he him brocht. 2555
 'Quhether call 3e this fair play, or nocht ?
 To set 3our Maister in sa fell effray,
 Quhill he for feiritnes hes fylit vp the way.

¹ Orig. 'chace.'

[HARLEIAN

Sone efter that he followit him sa neir,
 Quhill that the wolf for fleidnes fylit the feild;
 Syne left the gait, and ran throw busk and breir,
 And schupe [him ¹] fra the schawis for to scheild. 2535

F. 65 b. He ran restles, for he wist of na beild;
 The wedder followit him baith out and in,
 Quhill that ane breir busk raif rudlie of the skin.

The wolf was war, and blenkit him behind, 2539
 And swa the wedder come thrawand throw the breir;
 Syne saw the doggis skin hingand on his lend.
 'Na,' quod he, 'is this 3e that is sa neir?
 Richt now ane hound, and now quhite as ane freir:
 I fled ouer fer, and I had kennit the cais:
 To god I wow that 3e sall rew this rais. 2545

'Quhat was the caus 3e gaif me sic ane catche?'
 With that in hy he hint him be the horne.
 'For all 3our mowis 3e met anis *wit* 3our matche,
 Suppois 3e leuch me all this 3eir to scorne. 2549
 For quhat enchessoun this doggis skin haif 3e borne?'
 'Maister,' quod he, 'bot to haif playit *wit* 3ow;
 I 3ow require that 3e na vther trow.'

'Is this 3our bourding in eirnist than?' quod he,
 'For I am verray effeirit, and on flocht;
 Cum bak agane and I sall let 3ow se.' 2555
 Than quhair the gait was grymmit he him brocht.
 'Quhether call 3e this fair play, or nocht?
 To set 3our maister in sa fell effray,

F. 66 a. Quhill he for feiritnes hes fylit vp the way.

¹ See p. 188.

CHARTERIS]

'Thryis, be my Saull, 3e gart me schute behind ;
 Upon my hoichis the senzeis may be sene ; 2560
 For feiritnes full oft I fylit the wind.
 Now is this 3e? na, bot ane Hound, I wene ;
 Me think 3our teith ouer schort to be sa kene.
 Blissit be the busk that reft 3ow 3our array,
 Ellis, fleand, bursin had I bene this day.' 2565

'Schir,' quod the Uedder, 'suppois I ran in hy,
 My mynd wes neuer to do 3our persoun euill ;
 Ane flear gettis ane follower commounlie,
 In play or ernist, preif quha sa euer will.
 Sen I bot playit, be gracious me till, 2570
 And I sall gar my freindis blis 3our banis,
 Ane full gude seruand will crab his Maister anis.'

'I haif bene oftymis set in grit effray,
 Bot, be the Rude, sa rad 3it wes I neuer,
 As thow hes maid me with thy prettie play. 2575
 I schot behind, quhen thow ouertuke me euer,
 Bot sickkerlie now sall we not disseuer.'
 Than be cragbane smertlie he him tuke,
 Or euer he ceissit, and it in schunder schuke.

MORALITAS.

ESOPE, THAT POETE, first Father of this Fabill, 2580
 Wrait this Parabole, quhilk is conuenient,
 Because the sentence wes fructuous & agreabill,
 In Moralitie exemplatiue prudent ;
 Quhais problemes bene verray excellent ;
 Throw similitude of figuris, to this day, 2585
 Geuis doctrine to the Redaris of it ay.

[HARLEIAN

'Thryis, be my saule, 3e gart me schute behind ; 2560
 Vpoun my hoichis the sein3eis may be sene ;
 For feiritnes full oft I fylit the wind.
 Now is this 3e? na, bot ane hound, I wene ;
 Me think 3our teith ouerschort to be sa kene.
 Blissit be the busk that reft 3ow 3our array, 2565
 Ellis, fleand, bursin had I bene this day.'

'Schir,' quod the wedder, 'suppois I ran in hy,
 My mynd wes neuer to do 3our persoun euill ;
 Ane flear gettis ane followare *commounly*,
 In play or eirnist, preif quha sa euer will. 2570
 Sen I bot playit, be gracious me till,
 And I sall gar my freindis blis 3owr banis,
 Ane full gude seruand will crab his maister anis.'

'I haif bene oftymes set in grit effray,
 Bot, be the rude, sa rad 3it wes I neuer, 2575
 As thow hes maid me be thy prettie play.
 I schot behind, quhen thow ouertuik me euer,
 Bot sickerlie now sall we not disseuer.'
 Than be cragbane smertlie he him tuke,
 Or euer he ceissit, and it in schunder schuik. 2580

F. 66 b.

Moralitas.

Esope, that poete, first father of this fabill,
 Wrait this parabole, quhilk is *conuenient*,
 Becaus the sentence wes fructuous and agreeable,
 In moralitie examplatiue prudent ;
 Quhais problemis bene verray excellent ; 2585
 Throw similitude of figuris, to this day,
 Gifis doctrine to the reidaris of it ay.

CHARTERIS]

Heir may thow se that riches of array
 Will cause pure men presumptuous for to be ;
 Thay think thay hald of nane, be thay als gay,
 Bot counterfute ane Lord in all degre. 2590
 Out of thair cais in pryde th[a]y clym sa hie,
 That thay forbeir thair better in na steid,
 Quhill sum man tit thair heillis ouer thair heid.

Richt swa in seruice vther sum exceidis,
 And thay haif withgang, welth, and cherissing, 2595
 That thay will lychtlie Lordis in [to]¹ thair deidis,
 And lukis not to thair blude, nor thair ofspring :
 Bot 3it na[ne]¹ wait how lang that reull will ring ;
 Bot he was wyse that bad his Sone consider :
 Bewar in welth, for Hall benkis ar rycht slidder. 2600

Thairfoir I counsell men of euerilk stait
 To knaw thame self, and quhome thay suld forbeir,
 And fall not with thair better in debait ;
 Suppois thay be als galland in thair geir,
 It settis na seruand for to vphald weir, 2605
 Nor clym so hie, quhill he fall of the ledder ;
 Bot think vpon the Uolf and on the wedder !

¶ FINIS.

¹ See p. 193.

[HARLEIAN

Heir may thow se that riches of array
 Will caus pure men presumptuous for to be ;
 Thay think thay hald of nane, be thay als gay, 2590
 Bot counterfait ane lord in all degrie.
 Out of thair cais in pryde thay clym so hie,
 That thay forbeir thair better in na steid,
 Quhill sum man tit thair heillis ouer thair heid.

Richt swa in seruice vther sum exceidis, 2595
 And thay haif withgang, welth, and cherising,
 That thay will lichtlie lordis in to thair deidis,
 And luikis not to thair blude, nor thair ofspring :
 Bot 3it nane wait how lang that reull will ring ;
 Bot he wes wyse that bad his sone consider : 2600
 Bewar in welth, for hall benkis ar richt slidder.

Thairfoir I counsall men of euerilk stait
 F. 67 a. To know thame selff, and quhome thay suld forbeir,
 And fall not with thair better in debait ;
 Suppois thay be als galland in thair geir, 2605
 It settis na seruand for to vphald weir,
 Nor clym so hie, quhill he fall of the ledder ;
 Bot think vpon the wolf and on the wedder !

Finis.

CHARTERIS]

THE TAIL OF THE UOLF AND
THE LAMB.

ANE cruell Uolf, richt rauenous and fell,
Upoun ane tyme past to ane Reuer,
Descending from ane Roche vnto ane well, 2610
To slaik his thirst, drank of the watter cleir.
Swa vpon cace ane selie Lamb come neir,
Bot of his fa, the Uolf, na thing he wist,
And in the streme laipit to cule his thirst.

This drank thay baith, bot not of ane Intent ; 2615
The Uolfis thocht wes all of wickitnes ;
The selie Lamb wes meik and Innocent :
Upon the Reuer, in ane vther place,
Beneth the Uolf he drank ane lytill space,
Quhill he thocht gude, beleuand thair nane euill ; 2620
The Uolf him saw, and Rampand come him till.

With girnand teith and awfull angrie luk,
Said to the Lamb : 'thow Catiue wretchit thing,
How durst thou be sa bald to fyle and Bruk,¹
Quhar I suld drink, with thy foull slauering ? 2625
It wer Almous the for to draw and hing,
That suld presume, with thy foull lippis wyle,
To glar my drink, and this fair watter fyle.'

The selie Lamb, quaikand for verray dreid,
On kneis fell, and said : 'Schir, with 3our leif, 2630
Suppois I dar not say thairof 3e leid ;
Bot, be my Saull, I wait 3e can nocht preif
That I did ony thing that suld 3ow greif ;
3e wait alsua that 3our accusatioun
Fail3eis fra treuth, and contrair is to ressoun. 2635

¹ Cf. p. 299.

[HARLEIAN

The tail of the wolf & the Lamb.

Ane cruell wolf, richt rauenous and fell,
 Vpon ane tyme past to ane reuir, 2610
 Discending frome ane rotche vnto a well,
 To slaik his thrist, drank of the watter cleir.
 Swa vpon cace ane selie lamb come neir,
 Bot of his fa, the wolf, na thing he wist,
 And in the streme laipit to cuill his thrist. 2615

F. 67 b. This drank thay baith, bot not of ane intent ;
 The wolfis thocht wes all on wickitnes ;
 The selie lamb wes meik and innocent :
 Vpon the reuir, in ane vther place,
 Beneth the wolf he drank ane litill space, 2620
 Quhill he thocht guid, beleuand thair nane ill ;
 The wolf him saw, and rampand come him till.

With girnand teith and awfull angrie luik,
 Said to the lamb : 'thow catiue wretchit thing,
 How durst thou be sa bald to fyle and bruik,¹ 2625
 Quhair I sould drink, with thy foull slauering ?
 It wer almous the for to draw and hing,
 That suld presume, with thy foull lippis vyle,
 To glar my drink, and this fair watter fyle.'

The selie lamb, quaikand for verray dreid, 2630
 On kneis fell, and said : 'schir, with 3our leif,
 Suppois I dar not say thairof 3e leid ;
 Bot, be my saule, I wait 3e can not preif
 That I did ony thing that suld 3ow greif ;
 3e wait alswa that 3our accusatioun 2635
 Faillies fra treuth, and contrair is to ressoun.

¹ Cf. p. 299.

CHARTERIS]

¶ 'Thocht I can not, Nature will me defend,
 And of the deid perfyte experience ;
 All heuie thing man of the self discend ;
 Bot gif sum thing on force mak resistance,
 Than may the streme on na way mak ascence, 2640
 Nor ryn bakwart : I drank beneth 3ow far ;
Ergo, for me 3our Bruke wes neuer the war.

'Alswa my lippis, sen that I wes ane Lamb,
 Tuichit na thing that wes contagious ;
 Bot soukkit milk from Pappis of my dame, 2645
 Richt Naturall, sweet, and als delitious.'
 'Weill,' quod the Uolf, 'thy language Rigorous
 Cummis the of kynd ; swa thy Father before
 Held me at bait, baith with boist and schore.

'He wraithit me, and than I culd him warne 2650
 Within ane 3eir, and I brukit my heid,
 I suld be wrokkin on him, or on his barne,
 For his exhorbitant and frawart pleid ;
 Thow sall doutles for his deidis be deid.'
 'Schir, it is wrang, that for the Fatheris gilt 2655
 The saikles sone suld punist be or spilt.

'Haif 3e not hard quhat halie Scripture sayis,
 Endytit with the mouth of God Almycht ?
 Of his awin deidis ilk man sall beir the prais,¹
 As pane for sin, reward for werkis rycht ; 2660
 For my trespas quhy suld my sone haif plycht ?
 Quha did the mis let him sustene the pane.'
 '3aa,' quod the Uolf, '3it pleyis thow agane ?

¹ Cf. p. 300.

[HARLEIAN

‘Thocht I can not, nature will me defend,
 And of the deid perfite experience ;
 F. 68 a. All heuie thing man of the force discend ;
 Bot gif sum thing on force mak resistance, 2640
 Than may the streame on na way mak ascence,
 Nor rin bakwart : I drank beneth 3ow far ;
 Ergo, for me 3our bruik wes neuer the war.

‘Alswa my lippis, sen that I wes ane lam,
 Tuichit na thing that wes contagious ; 2645
 Bot sowkit milk frome pappis of my dam,
 Richt naturall, sweit, and als delitious.’
 ‘Weill,’ quod the wolf, ‘thy language rigorous
 Cummis the of kynd ; swa thy father before
 Held me at bait, baith with boist and schore. 2650

‘He wraithit me, and than I culd him warne
 Within ane 3eir, and I bruikit my heide,
 I suld be wrokkin on him, or on his barne,
 For his exhorbetand and thrawart pleid ;
 Thow sall doutles for his deidis be deid.’ 2655
 ‘Schir, it is wrang, that for the fatheris gilt
 The saikles sone suld puneist be or spilt.

‘Haif 3e not hard quhat halie scriptour sayis,
 Endytit w^{it}h the word of god almicht ?
 Of his awin deidis ilk man sall beir the prais,¹ 2660
 As pane for sin, rewaird for werkis rycht ;
 For my trespas quhy suld my sone haif plicht ?
 F. 68 b. Quha did the mis let him sustene the pane.’
 ‘3aa,’ quod the wolf, ‘3it pleyis thow agane ?

¹ Cf. p. 300.

CHARTERIS]

¶ 'I let the wit, quhen that the Father offendis,
 I will chereis nane of his Successioun ; 2665
 And of his barnis I may weill tak amendis,
 Unto the twentie degre descending down.
 Thy Father thocht to mak ane strang poisoun,¹
 And with his mouth into my watter spew.'
 'Schir,' quod the Lamb, 'thay twa ar nouthar trew. 2670

'The Law sayis, and 3e will vnderstand,
 Thair suld na man, for wrang, nor violence,
 His aduersar² punis at his awin hand,
 Without proces of Law and euidence ;
 Quhilk suld haif leif to mak lawfull defence, 2675
 And thairupon Summond is Peremptourlie,
 For to propone, contrairie, or reply.

'Set me ane lauchfull Court, I sall compeir
 Before the Lyoun, Lord and leill Iustice,
 And, be my hand, I oblis me rycht heir, 2680
 That I sall byde ane vnsuspect Assyis.
 This is the Law, this is the Instant vse ;
 3e suld pretend³ thairfoir ; ane Summondis mak
 Aganis that day, to gif ressoun and tak.'

'Na,' quod the Uolf, 'thow wald Intruse ressoun, 2685
 Quhar wrang and reif suld dwell in propertie.
 That is ane poynt and part of fals tressoun,
 For to gar reuth remane with crueltie.
 Be his woundis, fals tratour, thow sall de,
 For thy trespas, and for thy Fatheris als.' 2690
 With that anone he hint him be the hals.

¹ Orig. 'presoun.' Cf. pp. 199, 300.

² Orig. 'awin sair.'

³ Cf. p. 301.

[HARLEIAN

'I Let the wit, quhen that the father offendis, 2665
 I will refus¹ nane of his successioun;
 And of his bairnis I will tak amendis,
 Vnto the twentie degre discending doun.
 Thy father thocht to mak ane strang poysoun,
 And with his mouth in my watter did spew.' 2670
 'Schir,' quod the lamb, 'thay twa ar nouthre trew.

'The law sayis, and 3e will vnderstand,
 Thair suld na man, for wrang, nor violence,
 His aduersar puneis at his awin hand,
 Without proces of law and euidence; 2675
 Quhilk suld haif leif to mak lawfull defence,
 And thairupoun sumound peremptourlie,
 For to propone, contrarie, or reply.

'Set me ane lauchfull court, I sall compeir
 Before the lioun, lord and leill iustice, 2680
 And, be my hand, I obleis me richt heir,
 That I sall hyde ane vnsuspect assyis.
 This is the law, this is the instant gyis;
 3e suld pretend² thairfoir; ane sumoundis mak
 Aganis that day, to gif reasoun and tak.' 2685

F. 69 a. 'Na,' quod the wolf, 'thow wald intruse ressoun,
 Quhair wrang and reif suld duell in propertie.
 That is ane point and pairt of fals tressoun,
 For to gar reuth remane *wit* creuelte.
 Be his woundis, fals tratour, thow sall die, 2690
 For thy trespas, and for thy fatheris als.'
 With that anone he hint him be the hals.

¹ See pp. 198, 300.² Cf. p. 301.

CHARTERIS]

- ¶ The selie Lamb culd do na thing bot blait ;
 Sone wes he deid ; the Uolf wald do na grace,
 Syne drank his blude, and of his flesche can eit,
 Quhill he wes full, and went his way on pace. 2695
 Of his murther quhat sall we say, allace ?
 Wes not this reuth, wes not this greit pietie,
 To gar this selie Lamb but gilt thus de ?

MORALITAS.

THE pure pepill this Lamb may signifie,
 As Maill men, Merchandis, & all lauboureris, 2700
 Of quhome the lyfe is half ane Purgatorie,
 To wyn with lautie leuing as effeiris.
 The Uolf betakinnis fals extortioneris
 And oppressouris of pure men, as we se,
 Be violence, or craft in facultie. 2705

- ¶ Thre kynd of Uolfis in this world now Ringis :
 The first ar fals peruerteris of the Lawis,
 Quhilk vnder Poet¹ termis falset mingis,
 Lettand that all wer Gospell that he schawis ;
 Bot for ane bud the pure man he ouerthrawis, 2710
 Smoirand the richt, garrand the wrang proceed :
 Of sic Uolfis hellis fyre sall be thair meid.

O man of Law ! let be that subteltie,
 With nyce gimpis, and fraudis Intricate,
 And think that God in his Diunitie 2715
 The wrang, the richt of all thy werkis wait :
 For prayer, price, for hie nor law estait,
 Of fals querrellis se thow mak na defence ;
 Hald with the rycht, hurt not thy conscience.

¹ See p. 302.

[HARLEIAN

The selie lamb culd do na thing bot bleit ;
 Sone wes he deid ; the wolf wald do na grac[e],¹
 Syne drank his blude, and of his flesche can eit, 2695
 Quhill he wes full, syne went his way a pace.
 Of his murthour quhat sall we say, allace ?
 Wes not this reuth, wés not this grit pietie,
 To gar this selie lamb but gilt thus die ?

Moralitas.

The pure people this lamb may signifie, 2700
 As maill men, marchandis, and all lawboreris,
 Of quhome the lyfe is half ane purgatorie,
 To win with lawtie leuing as effeiris.
 The wolf betakyⁿnis fals extortioneris
 And oppressouris of pure men, as we se, 2705
 Be violence,² or craft in facultie.

Thre kynd of wolfis in this warld now ringis :
 F. 69 b. The first ar fals peruerteris of the lawis,
 Quhilk vnder poete³ termes falset mingis,
 Lettand that all wer gospell that he schawis ; 2710
 Bot for ane bud the pure man he ouerthrawis,
 Smorand the richt, garrand the wrang proceid :
 Of sic wolfis hellis fyre sall be thair meid.

O man of law ! let be thy subteltie,
 With nyce gimpis, and fraudis intricait, 2715
 And think that god in his diuinitie
 The wrang, the richt of all thy werkis wait :
 For prayer, pryce, for hie nor law estait,
 Of fals querrellis se thow mak na defence ;
 Hald with the richt, hurt not thy conscience. 2720

¹ Clipped by the binder.² MS. 'vioelence.'³ See p. 302.

CHARTERIS]

Ane vther kynd of Uolfis Rauenous 2720
 Ar mychtie men, haifand aneuch plentie,
 Quhilkis ar sa gredie and sa couetous,
 Thay will not thoill the pure in pece to be ;
 Suppois he and his houshald baith suld de
 For falt of fude, thair of thay gif na rak, 2725
 Bot ouer his heid his mailling will thay tak.

¶ O man ! but mercie, quhat is in thy thocht,
 War than ane Uolf, and thow culd vnderstand ?
 Thow hes aneuch ; the pure husband richt noch
 Bot croip and calf vpon ane clout of land. 2730
 For Goddis aw, how durst thow tak on hand,
 And thow in Barn and Byre sa bene and big,
 To put him fra his tak and gar him thig ?

The thrid Uolf ar men of heritage,
 As Lordis that hes land be Goddis lane, 2735
 And settis to the Mailleris ane Uillage,
 And for ane tyme Gressome payit and tane ;
 Syne vexis him, or half his terme be gane,
 With pykit querrellis for to mak him fane
 To flit, or pay his Grèssome new agane. 2740

His Hors, his Meir, [he man] Len to the Laird,
 To drug and draw in Court or in Cariage ;
 His seruand nor his self may not be spaird
 To swing and sweit, withouttin Meit or wage.
 Thus how he standis in laubour and bondage, 2745
 That scantlie may he purches by his mail,
 To leue vpon dry breid and watter caill.

[HARLEIAN

Ane vther kynd of wolfis rauenous
 Ar nichtie men, hauand full grit plentie,
 Quhilkis ar sa gredie and sa couetous,
 Thay will not thoill the pure in pece to be ;
 Suppois he and his houshald baith suld die 2725
 For falt of fude, thair of thay gif na rak,
 Bot ouer his heid his mailling will thay tak.

O man ! but mercye, quhat is in thy thocht,
 War than ane wolf, and thow culd vnderstand ?
 Thow hes aneuch ; the pure husband richt nocht 2730
 F. 70 a. Bot croip and calf vpoun ane clout of land.
 For goddis aw, how durst thow tak on hand,
 And thow in barn and byre sa bene and big,
 To put him fra his tak and gar him thig ?

The thrid wolff ar men of heritage, 2735
 As lordis that hes land be goddis lane,
 And settis to the mailleris ane vilege,
 And for ane tyme gressum pait and tane ;
 Syne vexis him, or half his 3eir be gane,
 With pykit querrellis for to mak him fane 2740
 To flit, or pay his gressome new agane.

His hors, his meir, he man len to the laird,
 To drug and draw in court and cariage ;
 His seruand nor his self may not be spaird
 To swing and sweit, withouttin meit or wage. 2745
 Thus how he standis in labour and bondage,
 That scantlie may he purches be his mail,
 To leif vpon dry breid and watter caill.

CHARTERIS]

Hes thow not reuth to gar thy tennentis sweit
 Into thy laubour with faynt and hungrie wame,
 And syne hes lytill gude to drink or eit, 2750
 With his menze at euin quhen he cummis hame?
 Thow suld dreid for rychteous Goddis blame;
 For it cryis ane vengeance vnto the heuinnis hie,
 To gar ane pure man wirk but Meit or fe.

¶ O thow greit Lord, that riches hes and rent, 2755
 Thow art ane Uolf, thus to deuoir the pure;
 Think that na thing cruell nor violent
 May in this warld perpetuallie Indure:
 This sall thow trow and sikkerlie assure,
 For till oppres thow sall haif als greit pane 2760
 As thow the pure had with thy awin hand slane.

God keip the Lamb, quhilk is the Innocent,
 Frome Uolfis byit and men ex[t]ortioneris;
 God grant that wrangous men of fals Intent
 Be manifestit, and punischit as effeiris. 2765
 And god, as thow all rychteous prayer heiris,
 Mot saif our King, and gif him hart and hand
 All sic Uolfis to banis out of the land.

¶ FINIS.

[HARLEIAN

Hes thow not reuth to gar thy tennentis sweit
 In to thy labour with faint¹ and hungrie wame, 2750
 And syne hes litill gude to drink or eit,
 With his meniȝe at euin quhen he cummis hame?
 F. 70 b. Thow suld dreid for richteous goddis blame;
 For it cryis ane vengéance vnto the heuinnis hie,
 To gar ane pure man wirk but meit or fe. 2755

O thow grit lord, that riches hes and rent,
 Be not ane wolf, thus to deuoir the pure;
 Think that na cruell nor violent thing present
 May in this warld perpetuallie indure:
 This sall thow trow and sikkerlie assure, 2760
 For till oppres thow sall haif als grit pane
 As thow the pure had with thy awin hand slane.

God keip the lamb, quhilk is the innocent,
 Frome wolfis byte and fell extortioneris;
 God grant that wrangous men of fals intent 2765
 Be manifestit, and punischit as effeiris.
 And god, as thow all richteous prayer heiris,
 Mot saif oure king, and gif him hart and hand
 All sic wolfis to banes out of the land.

¶ Finis.

¹ MS. 'fanit.'

CHARTERIS]

¶ THE TAILL OF THE PADDOK AND
THE MOUS.

V^PON ANE tyme, as Esope culd Report,
Ane lytill mous come till ane Reuer syde ; 2770
Scho nicht not waid, hir schankis wer sa schort,
Scho culd not swym, scho had na hors to ryde :
Of verray force behouit hir to byde,
And to and fra besyde that Reuer deip
Scho ran, cryand with mony pietuous peip. 2775

‘ Help ouer, help ouer,’ this sillie mous can cry,
‘ For Goddis lufe, sum bodie ouer the brym.’
With that ane Paddok, in the watter by,
Put vp hir heid, and on the bank can clym,
Quhilk be nature culd dowk and gaylie swym ; 2780
With voce full rauk, scho said on this maneir :
‘ Gude morne, schir Mous, quhat is 3our erand heir ?’

¶ ‘ Seis thow,’ quod scho, ‘ of corne 3one Iolie flat,
Of ryip Aittis, of Barlie, Peis, and Quheit ?
I am hungrie, and fane wald be thairat, 2785
Bot I am stoppit be this watter deip ;
And on this syde I get na thing till eit
Bot hard Nuttis, quhilkis with my teith I bore.
Wer I bezond, my Feist wer fer the more.

‘ I haif no boit ; heir is no Marineris ;¹ 2790

¹ Seven lines are here omitted. The first line of the fourth stanza of Harleian and ll. 2-7 of the fifth stanza of Harleian are printed together in Charteris as the fourth stanza.

HARLEIAN

F. 71 a. The taill of the paddok & the
Mous.

Upon ane tyme, as esope culd report, 2770
 Ane litill mous come to ane reueir syde ;
 Scho nicht not waid, hir schankis wer sa schort,
 Scho culd not swym, scho had na horß to ryde :
 Of verray force behouit hir to byde,
 And to and fra beside that reueir deip 2775
 Scho ran, cryand with mony pietious peip.

‘Help ouer, help ouer,’ this selie mous can cry,
 ‘For goddis lufe, sum bodie ouer the brym.’
 With that ane paddok, in the watter by,
 Put vp hir heid, and on the bank can clym, 2780
 Quhilk be nature culd douk and gaylie swym;
 With voce full rauk, scho said on this maneir:
 ‘Gude morne, schir mous, quhat is 3our eirand heir?’

'Seis thow,' quod scho, 'of corne 3one Iolie flat,
 Of ryip aitis, of barlie, peis, and quheit? 2785
 I am hungrie, and fane wald be thairat,
 Bot I am stoppit with this watter greit;
 And on this syde I get na thing till eit
 Bot hard nuttis, quhilkis *with* my teith I bore.
 Wer I bezond, my feist wer fer the moir. 2790

‘I haif no boit ; heir is no maryner ;
F. 71 *δ*. And thocht thair war, I haif na fraucht to pay.’
Quod scho, ‘sister, let be thy heuie cheir ;
Do my counsale, and I sall find the way
Without horß, brig, boit, or 3it gallay, 2795
To bring the ouer saiffie,—be not effeird !—
And not weitand the campis of thy beird.’

CHARTERIS]

[]¹
 How can thow fleit without fedder or fyn.
 This Reuer is sa deip and dangerous,
 Me think that thow suld drownit be thairin.
 Tell me, thairfoir, quhat facultie or gyn
 Thow hes to bring the ouer this watter.' Than 2795
 Thus to declair the Paddok sone began.

'With my twa feit,' quod scho, 'lukkin and braid,
 In steid of Air, I row the streme full still;
 And thocht the brym be perrillous to waid,
 Baith to and fra I row at my awin will. 2800
 I may not droun, for quhy my oppin Gill
 Deuoidis ay the watter I resaif:
 Thairfoir to droun forsuith na dreid I haif.'

The Mous beheld vnto hir fronsit face,
 Hir runkillit cheikis, and hir lippis syde, 2805
 Hir hingand browis, and hir voce sa hace,
 Hir loggerand leggis, and hir harsky hyde.
 Scho ran abak, and on the Paddok cryde:
 'Gif I can ony skill of Phisnomie,
 Thow hes sum part² of falset and Inuie. 2810

'For Clerkis sayis the Inclinatioun
 Of mannis thocht proceidis commounlie
 Efter the Corporall complexioun
 To gude or euill, as Nature will apply:
 Ane thrawert vult, ane thrawert Phisnomy. 2815
 The auld Prouerb is witnes of this Lorum³—
Distortum vultum sequitur distortio morum.'

¹ See note on p. 206.² Orig. 'sumpart.'³ Orig. ' : *Lorum.*'

[HARLEIAN

'I haif grit wounder,' quod the litill mous,
 'How can thow fleit without fedder or fin.
 This reuer is sa deip and dangerous, 2800
 Me think that thow suld drownit be thairin.
 Tell me, thairfoir, quhat facultie or gin
 Thow hes to bring thé ouer this watter wan.
 That to declair the paddok this began.

'With my twa feit,' quod scho, 'lukkin and braid, 2805
 In steid of airis, I row the streme full still;
 And thocht the brym be perrillous to waid,
 Baith to and fra I row at my awin will.
 I may not droun, for quhy my oppin gill
 Deuoidis ay the watter I ressaif: 2810
 Thairfoir to droun forsuith na dreid I haif.'

The mous beheld vnto hir fronsit face,
 Hir runkillit cheikis, and hir lippis syde,
 Hir hingand browis, and hir voce sa hace,
 Hir logerand leggis, and hir harsky hyde. 2815
 Scho ran abak, and on the paddok cryde:

F. 72 a. 'Gif I can ony skill of phisnomy,
 Thow hes sum part of falset and invy.

'For clerkis sayis the inclinatioun
 Of mannis thocht proceedis commounly 2820
 Efter the corporale complexioun
 To guid or euill, as nature will apply:
 Ane thrawin will, ane thrawin phisnomy.
 The ald prouerb is witnes of this Lorum¹—
 Distortum bultum sequitur distortio morum.' 2825

¹ MS. ' : Lorum.'

CHARTERIS]

‘Na,’ quod the Taid, ‘that Prouerb is not trew;
 For fair thingis oftymis ar fundin faikyn.
 The Blaberryis, thocht thay be sad of hew, 2820
 Ar gadderit vp quhen Primeros is forsakin.
 The face may fail to be the hartis takin.
 Thairfoir I find this Scripture in all place:
 Thow suld not Iuge ane man efter his face.

‘Thocht I vnailsum be to luke vpon, 2825
 I haif na cause quhy I suld lakkit be;
 Wer I als fair as Iolie Absolon,
 I am no causer of that greit beutie.
 This difference in forme and qualitie
 Almychtie God hes causit dame Nature 2830
 To prent and set in euerilk creature.

‘Of sum the face may be full flurischeand,
 Of silkin toung and cheir rycht amorous,
 With mynd Inconstant, fals, and warian[d],
 Full of desait and menis Cautelous.’ 2835
 ‘Let be thy preiching,’ quod the hungrie Mous,
 And be quhat¹ craft thow gar me vnderstand,
 That thow wald gyde me to 3one 3onder land.’

¶ ‘Thow wait,’ quod scho, ‘ane bodie that hes neid
 To help thame self suld mony wayis cast; 2840
 Thairfoir ga tak ane dowbill tuynit threid,
 And bind thy leg to myne with knottis fast.
 I sall the leir to swym—be not agast!—
 Als weill as I.’ ‘as thow?’ than quod the Mous,
 ‘To preif that play it war richt perrillous. 2845

¹ Orig. ‘quhae.’

[HARLEIAN

'Na,' quod the taid, 'that prouerb is not trew;
 For fair thingis oftymes ar fundin faikin.
 The blaberyis, thocht thay be sad of hew,
 Ar gadderit vp quhen prymerois is forsaikin.
 The face may fail to be the hartis takin. 2830
 Thairfoir I find this scription in all place:
 Thow suld not iuge ane man efter his face.

'Thocht I vnhalsum be to luik vpoun,
 I haif na caus quhy I suld lakkit be;
 Wer I als fair as iolie Absolon, 2835
 I am no causer of that grit beutie.
 This difference in forme and qualitie
 Almichtie god hes causit dame nature
 To prent and set in euerie creature.

'Of sum the face may be full flurischand, 2840
 F. 72 b. Of silkin toung and cheir richt amorous,
 With mynd inconstant, fals, and variant,
 Full of dissait and menis cautelous.'
 'Let be thy preiching,' quod the hungrie mous,
 And be quhat craft thow gar me vnderstand 2845
 That thow wald gide me to 3one 3onder land.'

'Thow wait,' quod scho, 'ane bodie that hes neid
 To help thame self suld mony wayis cast;
 Thairfoir ga tak ane doubill twynit threid,
 And bind thy leg to myne with knottis fast. 2850
 I sall the leir to swym—be not agast!—
 Als weill as I.' 'as thow?' than quod the mous,
 'To preif that play it war richt perillous.

CHARTERIS]

'Suld I be bund and fast quhar I am fre,
 In hoip of help, than I schrew ws baith,
 For I mycht lois baith lyfe and libertie.
 Gif it wer swa, quha suld amend the skaith?
 Bot gif thow sweir to me the murthour aith 2850
 But fraud or gyle, to bring me ouer this flude
 But hurt or harme.' 'In Faith,' quod scho, 'I dude.'

Scho goikit vp, and to the hevin can cry :
 'O Iuppiter, of Nature God and King,
 I mak ane aith trewlie to the, that I 2855
 This lytill Mous sall ouer this watter bring.'
 This aith wes maid ; the Mous, but persauing
 The fals Ingyne of this foull trappald¹ Taid,
 Tuke threid and band hir leg, as scho hir bad.

Then fute for fute thay lap baith in the brym ; 2860
 Bot in thair myndis thay wer rycht different :
 The Mous thocht of na thing bot for to swym,
 The Paddok for to droun set hir Intent.
 Quhen thay in midwart of the streme wer went,
 With all hir force the Paddok preissit Doun, 2865
 And thocht the Mous without mercie to Droun.

¶ Persauand this, the Mous on hir can cry :
 'Tratour to God, and manesworne vnto me,
 Thow swore the murthour aith richt now, that I
 But hurt or harme suld ferryit be and fre ;' 2870
 And quhen scho saw thair wes bot do or de,
 With all hir mycht scho forcit hir to swym,
 And preissit vpon the Taiddis bak to Clym.

¹ So Hart : but cf. pp. 213, 279.

[HARLEIAN

'Sould I be bund and fast quhair I am fre,
 In hope of help, than I schrew ws baith, 2855
 For I nicht lois baith lyfe and libertie.
 Gif it war swa, quha suld amend the skaith?
 Bot gif thow sweir to me the murthour aith
 But fraude or gile, to bring me ouer this flude 2859
 But hurt or harme.' 'In faith,' quod scho, 'I dude.'

Scho goikit vp, and to the hevin can cry :
 'O Iuppiter, of nature god and king,
 I mak ane aith trewlie to the, that I
 This litill mous sall ouer this watter bring.'
 This aith wes maid ; this mous, but presauing 2865
 F. 73 a. The fals ingyne of this foull carpand¹ pad,
 Tuik threid and band hir leg, as scho hir bad.

Then fute for fute thay lap baith in the brym ;
 Bot in thair myndis thay war richt different :
 The mous thocht of na thing bot for to swym, 2870
 The paddok for to droun set hir intent.
 Quhen thay in midwart of the streme war went,
 With all hir force the paddok preissit down,
 And thocht the mous without mercie to droun.

Persauand this, the mous on hir can cry : 2875
 'Tratour to god, and manesworne vnto me,
 Thow swore the murthour aith richt now, that I
 But hurt or harme suld ferryit be and fre ;'
 And quhen scho saw thair wes bot do or de,
 With all hir nicht scho forsit hir to swym, 2880
 And preissit vpoun the taiddis bak to clym.

¹ See p. 212.

CHARTERIS]

The dreid of deith hir strenthis gart Incres,
 And forcit hir defend with mycht and mane. 2875
 The Mous vpwart, the Paddok doun can preis ;
 Quhyle to, quhyle fra, quhyle dowkit vp agane.
 The sillie Mous, plungit in to greit pane,
 Gan fecht als lang als breith wes in hir breist,
 Till at the last scho cryit for ane Preist. 2880

Fechtand thusgait, the Gled sat on ane twist,
 And to this wretchit battell tuke gude heid ;
 And with ane wisk, or ony of thame wist,
 He claucht his cluik betuix thame in the threid ;
 Syne to the land he flew with thame gude speid, 2885
 Fane of that fang, pyipand with mony pew ;
 Syne lowsit thame, and baith but pietie slew.

Syne bowellit ~~thame~~, ~~that~~ Boucheour with his bill,
 And belliflaucht full fettillie thame flaid ;
 Bot all thair flesche wald scant be half ane fill, 2890
 And guttis als, vnto that gredie glaid.
 Of thair debait thus quhen I hard outraid,
 He tuke his flicht, and ouer the feildis flaw :
 Gif this be trew, speir 3e at thame that saw.

MORALITAS.

MY Brother, gif thow will tak aduertence 2895
 Be this Fabill, thow may persaeue and se,
 It passis far all kynd of Pestilence,
 Ane wickit mynd with wordis fair and sle.
 Be war thairfoir, with quhome thow fallowis the ;
 To the wer better beir the stane barrow, 2900
 For all thy dayis to delf quhill thow may dre,
 Than to be machit with ane wickit marrow.

[HARLEIAN

The dreid of deith hir strenthis gart incret,
 And forcit hir defend with micht and mane.
 The mous vpwart, the paddok doun can pres ;
 Quhile to, quhile fra, quhile doukit vp agane. 2885
 The selie mous, plungit in to grit pane,
 Gan fecht als lang als breith war in hir breist,
 Till at the last scho cryit for ane preist.

Fechtand thusgait, the gled sat on ane twist,
 And to this wretchit battell tuik guid heid ; 2890
 F. 73 b. And with ane wisk, or ony of thame wist,
 He clawcht his cluik betuix thame in the threid ;
 Syne to the land he flew with thame guid speid,
 Fane of that fang, pyipand with mony pew ;
 Syne lousit thame, and baith but pietie slew. 2895

Syne bowellit thame, that boucheour *wit* his bill,
 And bellie flaucht full fettillie thame fled ;
 Bot all thair flesche wald scant be half ane fill,
 And guttis als, vnto that gredie gled.
 Of this debait thus quhen I hard outred, 2900
 He tuik his flicht, and ouer the feildis flaw :
 Gif this be trew, speir 3e at thame that saw.

Moralitas.

My brother, gif thow will tak aduertence
 Be this fabill, thow may persaif and se,
 It passis far all kinde of pestilence, 2905
 Ane wickit mynd with wordis fair and sle.
 Bewar thairfoir, with quhome thow fallowis the ;
 To the war better beir the stane barrow,
 For all thy dayis to delf quhill thow may dre,
 Than to be matchit with ane wickit marrow. 2910

CHARTERIS]

- ¶ Ane fals Intent vnder ane fair presence
 Hes causit mony Innocent for to de.
 Greit folie is to gif ouer sone credence 2905
 To all that speikis fairlie vnto the.
 Ane silkin tounge, ane hart of crueltie,
 Smytis more sore than ony schot of arrow.
 Brother, gif thow be wyse, I rid the fle
 To mache the with ane thrawart, fenzeit marrow. 2910
- I warne the als, it is greit negligence
 To bind the fast quhar thow wes frank and fre;
 Fra thow be bund, thow may mak na defence
 To saif thy lyfe, nor 3it thy libertie.
 This simpill counsal, brother, tak of me, 2915
 And it to cun perqueir se thow not tarrow,
 Better but stryfe to leif allane in le
 Than to be machit with ane wickit marrow.
- This hald in mynde: rycht more I sall the tell
 Quharby thir beistis may be figurate. 2920
 The Paddok, vsand in the flude to dwell,
 Is mannis bodie, swymand air and lait
 In to this world, with cairis Implicate,
 Now hie, now law, quhyllis plungit vp, quhyllis doun,
 Ay in perrell, and reddie for to droun. 2925

[HARLEIAN

Ane fals intent vnder ane fair pretence

Hes causit mony innocent for to de.

Grit folie is to gif ouer sone credence

F. 74 a. To all that speikis fairlie vnto the.

Ane silkin tounge, ane hart of crueltie, 2915

Smytis more sore than ony schot of arrow.

Brother, gif thow be wyse, I rid the fle

To matche the with ane thrawit, feinzeit marrow.

I warne the als, it is grit negligence

To bind the fast quhair thow was frank and fre ; 2920

Fra thow be bund, thow may mak na defence

To saif thy life, nor 3it thy libertie.

This simpill counsale, brother, tak of me,

And it to cun¹ perqueir se thow not tarow,

Better but stryfe allane to leif in le 2925

Than to be matchit with ane wickit marrow.

This hald in mynde : richt moir I sall the tell

Quhairby thir beistis may be figurate.

The paddok, vsand in the flude to duell,

Is mairnis bodie, swymand air and lait 2930

In to this warld, with cairis implicate,

Now hie, now law, quhilis plungit vp, quhilis doun,

Ay in perrell, and reddie for to droun.

Now dolorous, now blyith as bird on breir ;

Now in fredome, now wappit² in distres ; 2935

Now haill and sound, now deid and brocht on beir ;

Now pure as Iob, now rowand in riches ;

Now gownis gay, now bratis laid in pres ;

F. 74 b. Now full as fitche,³ now hungrie as ane hound ;

Now on the quheill, now wrappit⁴ to the ground. 2940

¹ MS. 'cum.' Cf. pp. 216, 281.

³ Or 'ficche.' Cf. p. 282.

² Hart, 'wrapped.' Cf. p. 282.

⁴ Cf. p. 282. Hart, 'wrapped.'

CHARTERIS]

This lytill Mous, heir knit thus be the schyn,
 The Saull of man betakin may indeid ;
 Bundin, and fra the bodie may not wyn,
 Quhill cruell deith cum brek of lyfe the threid ;
 The quhilk to droun suld euer stand in dreid, 2930
 Of Carnall lust be the Suggestioun
 Quhilk drawis ay the Saull, and druggis doun.

The Gled is Deith, that cummis suddandleie,
 As dois ane theif, and cuttis sone the battall.
 Be vigilant, thairfoir, and ay reddie, 2935
 For mannis lyfe is brukill, and ay mortall :
 My freind, thairfoir, mak the ane strang Castell
 Of Faith in Christ ; for deith will the assay,
 Thow wait not quhen—euin, morrow, or midday.

Adew, my freind ; and gif that ony speiris 2940
 Of this Fabill sa schortlie I conclude,
 Say thow, I left the Laif vnto the freiris,
 To mak exempill and ane similitude.
 Now Christ for vs that deit on the Rude,
 Of Saull and lyfe as thow art Saluour, 2945
 Grant vs to pas in till ane blissit hour.

[HARLEIAN

This litill mous, heir knit thus be the schin,
 The saule of man betakin may indeid ;
 Bundin, and fra the bodie may not win,
 Quhill cruell deith cum brek of life the threid ;
 The quhilk to droun suld euer stand in dreid, 2945
 Of carnale lust be the suggestion
 Quhilk drawis ay the saule, and druggis down.

The watter is the warld, ay welterand
 With mony wall of trubulatioun,
 In quhilk the saule and bodie wer steirand, 2950
 Standand richt different in thair opinioun ;
 The saule vpwart, the bodie precis down :
 The saule richt fane wald be brocht ouer, I wis,
 Out of this warld in to the heuiznis blis.¹

The gled is deith, that cummis suddandlie, 2955
 As dois ane theif, and cuttis sone the battell.
 Be vigilant, thairfoir, and ay reddie,
 For mannis lyfe is brukill, and ay mortale :
 My freind, thairfoir, mak the ane strang castell
 Of faith in christ ; for deith will the assay, 2960
 Thow wait not quhen—euin, morrow, or midday.

Adew, my freind ; and gif that ony speiris
 F. 75 a. Of this fabill sa schortlie I conclude,
 Say thow, I left the laif vnto the freiris,
 To mak exempill and ane similitude. 2965
 Now christ for ws that deit on the rude,
 Of saule and lyfe as thow art saluour,
 Grant ws to pas in till ane blissit hour.

Finis.

¹ Cf. p. 282, ll. 179-185.

MAKCULLOCH TEXT

[PROLOGUE.]

F. 2 b.

THOWCHT fenzeit fables of auld poetry
 be nocht al groundit vpon trewth, zit þan
 þar polit termys of sueit rethory
 ar rycht plesand one to þe eyr of man;
 and als þe cauð quhy þai ferst begane 5
 was to repreif þe of þi myslewyng,
 of man be figowr of ane oþer thing.

In lik maner as throw a bustewouß erd,
 so it be laborit with grit diligens,
 spryngys þe flowris & þe corne on brerd, 10
 hailsum & gud to mannīs sustunens,
 so spryngis þar a moral sueit sentens
 out of þe sutell dyt of poetry,
 to gud purpoß, quha cowth it weil apply.

The nuttis schell, thocht it be hard & thewch, 15
 haldis þe kyrnal sueit & delectabill:
 so lyis þar a doctryne wiß anewch,¹
 and ful of fruyt, wiþin a fenzeit fabill.
 and clerkis sayis, it is rycht profitabill
 amang ernyst to myng a mery sport, 20
 to blyth þe spreit, and gar þe tyme be schort.

¹ MS. 'awewch.'

MAKCULLOCH]

For as a bow þat ay is bent
 worthis wnsmert & dullis on þe stryng,
 so dois þe mynd þat ay is diligent
 in ernystful thowchttis, & in studying : 25
 with sad materis sum meryneß to myng
 accordis weil, þis esop said, I wyß,
 'dulcius arrident seria picta iocyß.'

Off þis poete, my masteris, with þour leif,
 submytting me to þour correctione, 30
 in moder thowng of latyne I walld preif
 to mak a maner of translatiowne ;
 nocht of my self, for wayne presumptiowne,
 bot be request & precep of ane lord,
 of quhome þe name it nedis nocht record. 35

In hamly langage & in termes ruyd
 me nedis wryt, for quhy of eloquens
 nor rethory neuir I wnderstuyd :
 þarfoir meikly I pray þour reuerens,
 gyf 3e fend owcht þat throw my necligens 40
 be dymynut, or zit superfluus,
 correk it at þour willis graciuss.

My auctowr in þis fabill tellis quhow
 þat brutell bestis spak, & wnderstuyd,
 and to gud purpoß disput, & argow, 45
 a sylogysme propone, & eik conclud ;
 puttyng exempill & similitud
 quhow mony men in operatiowne
 ar lik to bestis in conditiowne.

[MAKCULLOCH

No merwell is a man be lik a best, 50
 quhilk leiffis ay carnal foul delyt ;
 þat schayme *can nocht* derenze & arrest,
 bot takis al þe lust & appetyt,
 quhilk, throw *custum* & þe dayly ryt,
 syne in þe mynd is sa fast radicat 55
 þat he in brutal best is transformat.

This nobil clerk esop, as I haf tald,
 In gay meteyr & in facund purpurat,
 be figow[r] wryt his buk, for he no wald
¹ tak þe disdeyne of he nor law estat. 60
 and to begyne, fyrst of a cok he wrat,
 sekand his meit, quhilk fand a ioly stone,
 of quhom þe fabil ze sal heir anone.

[THE COCK AND THE JEWEL.]²

A cok, *sum* tyme, *with* fetherem frech & gay,
rycht cant & crowß, albeit he weß bot pure, 65
 fl[e]w furth apone a dounng hill son be day ;
 to get his dyner set weß al his cure :
 scrapand amang þe aß, be aduenture
 he fand a ioly iasp, *rycht* precius,
 weß cassyn out in swopyng of þe houß. 70

As damycellis wantone & insolent,
 þat³ fayne wald play, & on þe streit be sene,
 to swoppynge of þe houß þai tak no tent,
 tak no tent so at þe fluyr be clene ;
 Iowellis ar tynt, as oftymyß as bene sene, 75
 apone þe fluyr, & swoppyt furth anone—
 perauenture, so weß þe sammyne stone.

¹ Cf. pp. 6, 7.² No gap in the MS.³ MS. 'pai.'

MAKCULLOCH]

So *merwelland* apone þe stone, *quod* he,
 'o gentill iasp! o rich & nobill thing!
 thowch I þe fynd, þow ganyß *nocht* for me;
 þow art a iowell for a lord or king.
 it wer pete þow suld in þis myddyng
 be beriit þus amang þis muk & mold,
 and þow so fair, & worth so mekill gold.

80

'It is pete I suld þe fynd, for quhy
 þi grit *vertu*, nor ȝit þi colowr cleyr,
 it may naþer extoll no ȝit magnify;
 and þow to me ma mak bot litil cheir.

85

F. 3 a. til grit lordiß *thocht* þow be haldyne deyr,
 I luf far better thing of leß awalle,
 as draff, or corne, to fill my towm intrall.

90

'I had leuer go schraip heir *wit* my naillis
 amang þis moll, & luk my liffis fud,
 as draff, or corne, smal wormyß, or snallis,
 or ony meit wald do my stomok gud,
 þan of iaspis a mekill multitud:
 and þow agane, apone þe samyne wyß,
 may me as now for þin awall dispice.

95

'Thow haß na corne, & þar of I had neid;
 þi cowlowr doysß bot *confort* to þe sycht,
 & þat is *nocht* an[e]wech my wame to feid;
 for wyffis sayis þat lukand werk is lycht.
 I wald *sum* meit haf, get it gif I *mycht*,
 for hungry men ma *nocht* weil leif on lukiß:
 had I dry breid, I cownt *nocht* of na cukiß.

100

105

[MAKCULLOCH

‘Quhar suld þow mak þhyn habitatiown?
 quhar suld þow duel, bot in a ryal towr?
 quhar suld þow set, bot in a kyngis crown,
 exault in wyrschip & [in]¹ grit honowr?
 ryß, gentill iasp, of al stanis þe flowr, 110
 out of þis fene, & paß qúhar þow suld be;
 þow ganyß *nocht* for [me], na I for þe.’

Leiffand þis iowell law apone þe grovnd,
 to seik his meit þis cok his wayis went;
 bot quhen, or quhow, or quhome by it weß fownd, 115
 as now I set to hald no argument:
 bot of þe inwart *sentens* & intent
 of þis fabill, as myne autor dois vryt,
 I sal reherß in rud & hamele dyt.

MORALITAS.²

This Iowell iasp heß *propertey*s sewyne: 120
 the fyrst, of colowr it is *merwaluß*,
pairt lik þe fyir, & *pairt* is lik þe hewyne:
 and makiß a *man* stark & victoryuß;
preßerwiß als fra casis *perellus*:
 quha haß þis stane sal haf gud hoip to speid, 125
 of fyr & noi sal hyme *neidis* *nocht* to dreid.

this gentill Iasp, *rycht* deferent of hewe,
 betaknyß *perfy*t *prudens* & *cunning*,
 ornat *with* mony *deidis* of *vertu*,
 more exelland þan³ ony erdly thing, 130
 quhilk makiß *man* in honowr ay to ryng,
 happy, & stark to hef þe victory
 of al *wicis* & *spirituall* innemy.

¹ Cf. pp. 10, 11.² In the MS. this heading introduces the next stanza. See pp. 10, 11, and p. 274.³ MS. þ^e.

MAKCULLOCH]

quha ma be harddy, rych, & graciowß?
 quha *can* eschew *perell* & *adventure*? 135
 quha *can* gouuerne a realme, cite, or howß
*wit*howt sciens? no thing, I 3ow assure.
 it is rycheß þat *euir* sall enduir,
 quhilk moith, na moist, na *opir* rowst [sall] fret :
 to *mannis* saul it is *eternall* meit. 140

þis cok, disyryng *mare* þe sampill corne
 þan ony ia[s]p, may till a fuyll be peir,
 quhilk at sciens makis bot a mok & scorne,
 and na gud *can* ; & alß litill will leir ;
 his hart walwmlis wyß *argumentis* to heir, 145
 as dois a sow, to quhome *men* for þe nonyß
 In hir draff trowch wald saw þe *precious* stonyß.

Quha is innemy to sciens & cunnyng
 bot *ignorantis* þat wnderstandis nocht?
 quhilk is so nobill, *precious*, & so dyng, 150
 þat it may *wit*h na erdly gud be bocht.
 weill war þat *man* our al *opir*, þat mocht
 al his lifdayis in *perfy*t study wayr
 to get sciens ; for hyme nedit no *mare*.

Bot now, allace, þis iasp is tynt & hid : 155
 we seik *nocht*, no preß it *nocht* to fynd.
 haif we rycheß, no *bettir* lyif we byd,
 of sciens *thocht* þe saul be bair & blynd.
 of þis *mater* to speik it wair bot wynd ;
 þarfoir I ceß, and wil na forther say : 160
 ga seik þe iasp quha wil, for þar it lay.

BANNATYNE TEXT

[THE SWALLOW & OTHIR BIRDS.]¹

F. 299 a. **T**HE he prudence, and wirking *mervellus*,
 The profound wit of god omnipotent
 Is so *perfy*t and so ingeing,
 Excelland fer all manis argument ;
 For quhy till him all thing is present,
 Rycht as it is, or ony tyme salbe,
 Befoir þe sicht of his devinite.

Thairfore *our* saull *with* sensualitie
So fettrit is in presoun corporale,
We may nocht cleirlye vndirstand nor see
God as he is, a thing celestiale²:
Oure mirk and deidlye corss materiale²
Blindis þe spirituall operatioun,
Lyke as man war bundin in presoun.

In metaphisik aristotle sayis 15
That *manis* saule is lyke ane bakkis ee,
Quhilk lurkis still as lang as lycht of day is,
And in þe gloming cumis furth to flee ;
Hir eine ar waik, þe sun scho may nochȝt see :
So is oure saule *witȝ* phantesye opprest, 20
To know the thingis in nature manifest.

¹ The title is in a later hand. This fable begins the 'fyift pairt' of Bannatyne's MS., 'contenyng the fabillis of Esop with diuerſ vpir fabillis and poetically workis maid & Compyld be diuers lernit men 1568.'

² Cf. pp. 120, 121.

BANNATYNE]

For god is in his power infnyte,
 And mannⁿis saule is febill and owir small,
 Off vndirstanding waik and vnperfyte,¹
 To comprehend him þat contenis all. 25
 Non suld presume, be reasoun naturale,
 To serche þe secretis of þe trinetie,
 Bot trow fermlic, and lat dirk ressounis be.

3it nevirþeles we may hawe knowlegeing
 Off god almychtie be his creatouris, 30
 That he is guid, fair, wyið, and bening ;
 Exemple takis be thir Iolye flouris,
 Rycht sweit off smell and plesand of colouris,
 Sum grene, sum blew, sum purpure, quhyte, and ride,
 Thus distribute be² gift of his godheid. 35

The firmament paintit with starris cleir,
 Fra eist to west rolland in circill round,
 And everye planete in his propir sphere,
 In moving makand armonye and sound ;
 The fyre, þe air, þe watter, and þe ground— 40
 Till vnderstand it is anuch, I wið,
 That god in all his warkis wittie is.

Luik we the fische þat sowmis in þe se ;
 Luik we in erd all kynd of bestiall ;
 The foulis fair, so forcelye thay flee, 45
 Scheddand þe air with pennis grite and small ;
 Syne luik to man, quhilk god maid last of all,
 Lyke till his ymage and his similitude :
 Be thir we know þat god is fair and guid.

¹ MS. 'vnperfyse.'² MS. 'þe.'

[BANNATYNE

F. 299 *b*. All creatouris he maid For the behuiffe 50
 Off man, and till his suppertatioun
 Into þis erd, baith vnder and abowe,
 In nowmer, wecht, and dew proportioun ;
 The differens off tyme, and ilk seasoun,
 Concordand to oure oportunitie, 55
 As daylie be experiens we do see.

The somer with his Iolye mantill grene,
 With flouris fair furrit on everye fent,
 Quhilk Flora goddes, of everye flouris quene,¹
 Hes to þat lord as for his seasoun lent, 60
 And phebus *witʰ* [his¹] gowdin beames gent
 Hes purfillit and paintit plesandlie,
 With heat and mosture stilland fra þe skye.

Syne herwest hait, quhen seres þat goddes
 Hir barnis benit hes *witʰ* abundance ; 65
 And bachchus, god of wyne, renewit hes
 Hir loud¹ pypes in Italie and france,
 With wynis wicht, and liccour of pleasaincce ;
 And copia *temporis* to fill hir horne,
 That nevir wes full of quhite nor *vþir* corne. 70

Syne winter wan, quhen austerne Eolus,
 God off þe wind, *witʰ* blastis boriall,
 The grene garmont of symmer glorious
 Hes all to rent and revin in peicis small ;
 Than flouris fair faidit *witʰ* frost moist fall, 75
 And birdis blyith changeis þair notis sweit
 Intill murning, neir slane *witʰ* snaw and sleit.

¹ Cf. pp. 124, 125.

BANNATYNE]

Thir dailis deip *witȝ* dubbis drownit is,
 Baith hill and holt heilit *witȝ* frostis hair ;
 And bewis bene ar bethit, bair of bliß, 80
 Be wikkit windis of þe wintare wair.
 All wyild beistis than fra þe bentis bair
 Drawis for dreid vnto þair deȝnis deip,
 Couchand for cauld in cowis þame to keip.

Syne cumis wer, quhen wintare is away, 85
 The secretare of somer *witȝ* his seill,
 Quhen columbie vp kikis throw þe clay,
 Quhilk fleit was before *witȝ* frostis feill.
 The mavisß and þe merle beginnis to meale ;
 The lark on loft, *witȝ* vþir birdis smale, 90
 Than drawis furth fra darne, on down and daile.

THAT samin seasoun, into a soft morning,
 Rycht blyith þai bitter blastis wer ago,
 Wnto þe wod, to see þe flouris spring,
 And heir þe mavisß sing and birdis mo, 95
 I passit furth, syne luikit to and Fro,
 To se the suyll þat was richt seasonable,
 Sappie, and to ressaue all seidis hable.

Movand thus gait, grit mirth I tuik in mynde,
 Off lawboraris to see þe besynace, 100
¹ F. 301 a. Sum makand dike, and sum þe pleuch can wynd,
 Sum sawand sedis fast fra place to place,
 The harrowis hoppand in the sawaris trace :
 It was grite Ioy to him þat lufit corne,
 To se thame laboure sa at evin and morne. 105

¹ Folios 300 and 301 have been transposed (probably in the rebinding of the MS.).

[BANNATYNE

And as I baid vnder a bank full bene, '
 In hert gritlie reiosit of þat sicht,
 Vnto a hege, vnder a hawthorne grene,
 Off small birdis þair come a ferlye flicht,
 And doun belyve can on þe levis lycht, 110
 On everye syde about me *quhair* I stude,
 Rycht *meruelous*, a mekle multitude.

Amang the quhilk a sualow loud coud cry,
 On that hawthorne heich in þe crop sittand,
 'O 3e birdis on bewis here me by, 115
 3e sall wele knaw, and wyisly vndirstand,
 Quhair danger is and *perrell* appeirand ;
 It is grite wißdome to prowye before,
 It to deuoid, or drede it hurt 3ow more.'

'Schir Suallow,' *quod* þe lark agane, and leuch, 120
 'Quhat hawe 3e sene þat causis 3ow to drede ?
 'Se 3e 3one churll,' *quod* scho, 'bezond 3one pleuch,
 Fast sawand hemp—lo, se !—and lynget sede ?
 3one lynt will grow in lytill tyme of¹ dede,
 And thairof will 3one churll his nettis mak, 125
 Vnder þe quhilk he thinkis ws to tak.

'Thairfore I rede pas we quhen he is gone,
 At evin, and *with our* nailis scharp and small,
 Out of þe erd schraip we 3one sede anone,
 And ete it wp ; for, gif it growis, we sall 130
 Haue cauß to weip here eftir ane and all :
 Se we remede þairfore furth with instante,
 "Nam leuius ledit quicquid prouidimus ante."

¹ See pp. 128, 129.

BANNATYNE]

'For clerkis sayis it is [nocht¹] sufficient
 To considder þat is befoir þine ee ; 135
 Bot prudence is ane inward argument,
 That garris a man prowde befoir and see
 Quhat guid, quhat evill is likly for to be
 Off everye thingis at þe Finall end,
 And se fro perrell ethar¹ him defend.' 140

The lark, lauchand, the suallow thus coud scorne,
 And said, 'scho fischit lang befoir þe nett ;
 The barne is eith to busk þat is vnborne ;
 All growis nocht þat in þe ground is sett ;
 The nek to stoup, quhen it þe strake sall get, 145
 Is sone eneuch ; dede on þe feyest fall.'—
 Thus scornit thay þe suallow ane and all.

Despising thus hir hailsum document,
 The foulis ferßlye¹ take þair flicht anone ;
 Sum with a bir þaj braidit our þe bent, 150
 And sum agane ar to þe grene wod gone.
 Vpoun þe land, quhair I wes left allone,
 I take my club, and hamewart coud I carye,
 So ferlyand, as I had sene a farye.

F. 301 b. We furth passit quhill Iune, that Iolye tyde, 155
 And sedis þat war sawin of beforne
 War growin heich, þat hairis mycht þame hyde,
 And als þe qualze crakand in þe corne ;
 I movit furth, betwene midday and morne,
 Vnto þe hege, vnder þe hawthorne grene, 160
 Quhair I befoir þe said birdis had sene.

¹ See pp. 130, 131.

[BANNATYNE

And as I stude, be aventure and cais,
 The samin birdis as I haif said 3ow air,
 I hoip becaus it was pair han̄ting place,
 Mair of succour or 3it mair solitare, 165
 Thay lychtit doun; and, quhen þaj lychtit ware,
 The suallow suyft put furth a piteouß pyme,¹
 Said, ‘wois him can nocht be war in tyme!

‘O blind birdis! and full of negligence,
 Vnmyndfull of 3our prosperitie, 170
 Cast vp 3our sycht and tak guid aduertence,
 Luik to þe lynt þat growis on 3ond lye;
 3one is the thing I bad furthwith þat we,
 Quhill it was seid, had tane it out of þe erd;
 Now it is lynt, now is it heych on breird. 175

‘Go 3it, quhill it is tendir, 3ounge and small,
 And pull it vp; lett it no moir increß;
 My flesch growis, my bodye quakis all,
 Thinkand on it I may nocht sleip in peß.’
 Thaj cryit all and baid þe suallow ceiß, 180
 And said, ‘3one lint heireftir will do guid,
 For lingett is a lytill birdis fuid.

‘We think, quhen that 3one lint bowis ar rype,
 To mak ws feyst, and fill ws of þe seid,
 Mawgre 3one churll, and on it sing and pype.’ 185
 ‘Weill,’ quod þe suallow, ‘freindis hardlye beit;
 Do as 3e will, bot certane sair I dreid,
 Heireftir 3e sall find als soure as sweit,
 quhen 3e ar speldit on 3one cairlis speit.

¹ MS. ‘pryme.’

BANNATYNE]

'The awnare off 3one lint ane fowlare is, 190
 Rycht cawtelous and Full off subteltye;
 His pray Full seindill tymes will he miß,
 Bot giff we birdis all þe warrare be;
 Full monye of *our* kin he [hes¹] gart dee,
 And tho~~cht~~ it bot ane sport till spill þair blude: 195
 God keip me fra him, and þe hellie rude.'

Thir small birdis haifand bot litill tho~~cht~~
 Off perrell þat mycht Fall be aventoure,
 The counsale of þe suallow sett at nocht,
 Bot tuik þair flicht and on togidder fure; 200
 Sum to þe wod, sum markit to þe mure.
 I tuik my stalf, quhen this was said and done,
 And walkit hame, quhill it drew neir hand none.

This lint rypit, þe carll pullit þe lyne,
 ripplit þe bowis, and in beitis sett, 205
 It steipit in þe burne, and dryit syne,
 And *wit*h a bittill knokit it and bett,
 Syne scutchit it weill, and heclit it *in* þe flett;
 F. 300 a. His wyffe it span, and twane it into Freid,
 Off quhilk þe Foular nettis war maid indeid. 210

The wintare cam, the wickit wind can blaw,
 The woddis grene war wallowit *wit*h þe weit,
 Bayth Firth and Fell *wit*h frostis war maid Faw,
 Slonkis and slak maid slidderie *wit*h þe sleit;
 The foulis fair For falt þaj fell off feit; 215
 Quhen bewis bair, it was na bute to byde,
 Bot hyit on in housß þame to hyde.

¹ Cf. pp. 134, 135.

[BANNATYNE

Sum in þe berne, sum in þe stak of corne
 The ludgeing tuke and maid thair residence ;
 The fowlare saw and grit athis hes he sworne 220
 Thaj suld be tane trewlie for þair expence.
 His nettis he hes sett *witʰ* diligence,
 And in þe snaw he schulit hes a plane,
 And healit it all ¹ ower *witʰ* calf agane.

Thir small birdis seand þe calf was gled ; 225
 Trowand it had bene corne, þaj lychtit down ;
 Bot of þe nettis na presume þaj had,
 Nor of þe fowlaris fals intentioun ;
 To schraip and seik þair meit þaj maid þame boun.
 The suallow into a branche litill by,² 230
 Dredand for gyle, thus loud on þame coud cry :

‘ Into þis caffē scaip quhill ³ 3owr nailis bleid,
 Thair is na corne, 3e laubour all in vaine ⁴ ;
 Trow 3e 3one churll for pietie will 3ow feid ?
 Na, na, he hes it lyit heir for a traine ; 235
 Remowe, I ride 3ow, or ellis 3e wilbe slaine ;
 His nettis he hes sett Full priuelie,
 Reddie to draw ; in tyme be war For thyē.’

Grite Full is he þat puttis in danger
 His lyfe, his honour, For a thing of nocht ; 240
 grite fule is he þat will *nocht* glaidlie heir
 Counsale in tyme, quhill it availl him mocht ;
 Grite Fule is he þat na thing hes *in* thoct
 Bot thing *present*, and eftir quhat may fall,
 Nor off þe end hes na memoriall. 245

¹ MS. ‘at.’ Cf. pp. 136, 137.² Cf. pp. 136, 137.³ MS. ‘will.’ Cf. pp. 136, 137.⁴ MS. ‘invaine.’

BANNATYNE]

Thir small birdis, For hungar famist neir,
 Full bissie scraipand for to seik þair fude,
 The counsale of þe suallow wald nocht heir,
 Suppois þair laubour did þame litill guid.
 Quhen scho þair Fulisch hertis vnderstude, 250
 So indurate, vp in a tree scho flew ;
 With þat þe churll owir þame his nettis drew.

Alace ! it was rycht grite hertis sair to see
 That bludye bouchure beit þaj birdis doun,
 And for to heir, quhen þaj wist weill to dee, 255
 Thair c[a]irfull sang and lamentatioun :
 Sum with ane staffe he straik to erd in s[w]oun,
 Sum offe þe heid, off sum he brak þe craig,
 Sum half on lywe he stappit in his bag.

And quhen þe suallow saw þat þaj war deid, 260
 ‘Lo !’ quod scho, ‘thus it happinnis oftin syis
 Off þame þat will nocht tak counsale nor reid
 Off prudent men or clerkis þat ar wyis ;
 This grit perrell I tauld þame mair than thryis ;
 F. 300b. Now ar þaj deid, and wo is¹ me þairfore !’ 265
 Scho tuik hir flycht,² bot hir I saw no moir.

[MORALITAS.]

Lo, worthie folk, esope, þat nobill clerk,
 Ane poete wirthie to be lawreate,
 Quhen he waikit fra moir autentik work,
 With vther mo, þis foirsaid faibill wrate, 270
 Quhilk at þis tyme may weilbe applicate
 To guid morale edificatioun,
 Hawand ane sentence cordand to reasoun.

¹ MS. ‘wois.’² MS. ‘flych.’

[BANNATYNE

This carll and bond of gentrice [s]poliate,¹
 Sawand þis caff, þir small birdis to slay, 275
 It is þe feind, *quhilk* fra þe angellis state
 Exylit is, as fals apostita :
 Quhilk day and nycht nevir werye to ga
 Sawand poyoun and monye wickit thocht
 In mannys saule, *quhilk* christ full deir hes bocht. 280

And quhen þe saull, as seid dois *in* þe erd,
 Giffis consent in delectatioun,
 The wickit thocht than *begynn*is to breird
 In deidlye syn, *quhilk* is dampnatioun ;
 Reasoun is blindit with affectioun, 285
 And carnall lust growis full grene and gay,
 Throw conswetude *hantit* fra day to day.

Proceding Furth be vse and consuetude,
 Syn rypis, and schame is sett on syde ;
 The feind plettis his nettis stark and rude, 290
 And vnder plesaunce priuelye dois hyde ;
 Syne on þe feild he sawis calf full wyde,
 Quhilk is bot tome and verrye vanitie
 Off fleschlye lust and vaine prosperitie.

Thir hungrie birdis wretchis we may call, 295
 Ay scraipand in þis wardlis vaine plesaunce,
 Gredye to gadder guidis temporall,
 Quhilk as þe caff ar tome *without* substaunce,
 Litill of vaill, and full of *variance*,
 Lyke to þe mow befoir þe face of wind 300
 Wiskis away and makis wretchis blind.

¹ Cf. pp. 140, 141.

BANNATYNE]

This¹ suallow, quhilk escapit thus þe snair,
 The halye precheour weill may signifie,
 Exortand men to walk and ay be war
 Fra nettis of our wickit ennemye, 305
 Quhilk slepis nocht, bot evir is reddye,
 Quhen wretchis in þis warldis wrak do sraip,
 To draw his nett, that þaj may nocht eschaip.

Alace! quhat cair, quhat weping is and wo,
 Quhen saull and bodye pairtit ar in twane; 310
 The bodye to þe wirmis kitching go,
 The saull to fyre and evirlasting paine :
 Quhat helpis than this caffie and guidis vaine,
 Quhen thow art put in luciferis bag,
 And brocht to hell, and hangit be þe craig? 315

F. 302 a. Thir hide nettis For to persawe and see,
 This sorye caffie wyislye to vnderstand,
 Best is be war in maist prosperitie,
 For in þis warld þair is no thing lestand;
 Is na man waitt quhow lang his stait will stand, 320
 His lyfe will lest, nor how þat he sall end
 eftir his deid, nor quhidder he sall wend.

Pray we thairfore, quhill we ar in þis lyffe,
 For foure thingis : þe first, Fra syn remowe;
 The secund is to seiß all weir and stryfe; 325
 The thrid is perfyte cheritye and lowe;
 The ferd thing is, and maist for our behowe,
 That is in bliß with angellis to be fallow.
 And thus endis þe preching of þe Suallow.

Finis.

¹ MS. 'thus.'

[BANNATYNE

THE FOX & THE COCK.¹

F. 310 b. **T**HOUCHT brutale bestis be Irrationale,
 That is to say, lakking discretioun,
 3it ilk ane in thair kyndis naturale
 Hes monye diuerß inclinatioun ;
 The bair bustouß, the wolf, þe wyld lyoun, 5
 The fox fenzeit, craftye and cautelouß,
 The dog to berk in nycht and keip the houß.

So different thay bene in propirteis,
 Vnknawin vnto man, and infynite,
 In kynd haifand so fele diuersiteis, 10
 My connyng it excedis for to dyte ;
 Forthy as now my purpois is to wryte
 A caß I fand, quhilk fell this hinder zere,
 Betuix a fox and gentill chanteclere.

A wedow duelt intill a drope thaj daiß, 15
 Quhilk wan hir fude *with* spyning on hir rok ;
 And no moir guidis, as þe fable sais,
 Except of hennis scho had a ioly flok ;

F. 311 a. And thame to kepe scho had a ioly cok,
 Rycht curageouß, vnto þis wedow ay 20
 Deuidand nycht, crawand befor þe day.

¹ Title in the margin in a later hand.

BANNATYNE]

A lytill fra þat foirsaid wedois houß,
 A thorny schaw þair was of grit defence,
 Quhairin a fox, craftye and cawtelouß,
 Maid his repair and daylie residence : 25
 Quhilk to this wedow did grete violence,
 In piking of hir pultry day and nycht,
 And be no mene reuengit on him scho mycht.

This wily tod, quhen þat þe lark coud sing,
 Full sare hungrye vnto þe toun him drest, 30
 Quhair chanteclere into þe gray dawning,
 Wery of nycht, was flowin fra his nest.
 Lourence this saw, and in his mynd he kest
 The Iuperteis, the wayis, and þe wile,
 Be quhat menis he mycht þis cok begile. 35

Dissimuland thus in countenance and chere,
 On knees fell, and smyland thus he said :
 ‘Gude morne, my maister, gentill chanteclere !’
 With þat þe cok stert bakward in a braid :
 ‘Schir, be my saull, 3e neid nocht be affraid, 40
 Nor 3it for me to drede, nor flee abak ;
 I come bot here 3ow service for to mak.

‘Wald I nocht serve 3ow, *schir*, I wer to blame,
 As I hawe done to 3oure progenitouris :
 3our fader oft fulfillit hes my wame, 45
 And send me mete fra middingis to þe muris ;
 At his ending I did my besy curis
 To hald his hede and gife him drinkis warme ;
 Syne at þe last, that suete suelt in my arme.’

[BANNATYNE

'Knew thow my fader?' *quod* þe cok, and leuch. 50

'Ȝa, my fair sone, forsuth I held his hede,
 quhen þat he swelt vnder a birkyn beuch;
 Syne said þe dirige, quhen þat he was dede.
 Betuix ws twa how suld þair be a fede?
 quhom suld ȝe trest bot me, ȝour seruitour, 55
 quhilk to ȝour fader did sa grite honour?

'Quhen I behald ȝour fetheris fair and gent,
 ȝoure breste, ȝour beke, ȝour hekill, and ȝour came,
 Schir, be my saule, ¹ that blissit sacrament,
 My hert warmys; me think, I am at hame; 60
 Ȝow for to serve I wald crepe on my wame,
 In frost and snaw, in wederis wan and wete,
 And lay my lyart lokkis vnder ȝour fete.'

This feynit fox, fals and dissimulate,
 Maid to þe cok a cauillatioun: 65
 'Me think ȝow changit and degenerate
 Fra ȝour fader and his conditioun;
 Off crafty crawling he mycht bere þe croun,
 For he wald on his tais stand and cawe;
 This is no lee; I stude besyde and sawe.' 70

With þat þe cok, vpoun his tais hee,
 Kest vp his beke, and sang *with* all his mycht.
Quod lourence than, 'now, *schir*, sa mot I thee,
 Ȝe ar ȝour faderis sone and air vp rycht;
 F. 311 b. Bot ȝit ȝe want of his cunnyng [a] slicht.' 75
 'Quhat?' *quod* þe cok:—'he wald, and haif na dout,
 Bayt^h wink and craw and turne him thryis about.'

¹ See pp. 34, 35.

BANNATYNE]

Thus inflate *with* þe wind of fals vaine gloir,
Quhilk puttis monye to confusioun,
 Trestand to win a grit worschip þairfore, 80
 Wnwarlye winkand, walkit vp and doun,
 And syne to chant and craw he maid *him* boun.
 And suddanlie, or he had sung ane note,
 The fox was war and hynt *him* be þe throte.

Syne to þe schaw but tarye *with* *him* hyit, 85
 Off countermaund haifand bot lytill dout.
With þat sprowtok, partlot,¹ and coppok cryit;
 The wedow hard, and *with* a cry come out.
 Seand þe caiß, scho said ² and gaif a schout:
 'How, murthour, reylock!' *with* a hiddeous beir, 90
 'Alace! hawe I now lost guid chanteclere!'

As scho war wod, *with* monye zell and cry,
 Ryvand hir hair, vpoun hir breist can bete,
 Syne paill of hew, half in ane extasye,
 Fel doun ³ for cair in swoning and in swete. 95
With þat þe sillye hennis left þair mete,
 And *quhill* þis wyfe was lyand thus in swoun,
 Fell of þat caiß in disputatioun.

'Alace!' *quod* partlot, makand sair murning,
With teiris grete attour hir chekis Fell, 100
 'Þone was our drourye, and our day darling,
 Oure nychtingale, and our horlage bell,
 Oure walcryif weche, ws for to warne and tell,
 quhen þat aurora, *with* hir curchis gray,
 put vp hir hede betuix þe nycht and day.⁴ 105

¹ MS. 'coppok.' Cf. p. 247, l. 123, and pp. 36, 37.

² Cf. pp. 36, 37.

³ MS. 'Feldoun.'

⁴ MS. 'and þe day.'

[BANNATYNE]

'Quha sall oure lemmane be? quha sall ws leid?
 Quhen we ar sad, quha sall vnto ws sing?
 With his sweit bill he wald brek ws þe breid :
 In all þis warld was þair na kyndar thing ;
 In paramouris he wald do ws plesing 110
 At his power, as nature list him gyffe ;
 Now eftir him, alace, how sall we lywe?'

Than sprowtok spak : 'seiß sister of 3our sorrow,
 3e be to made for him ; sic murning maiß ;
 We sall fair weill ; I find, sanct Iohne to borrow, 115
 The proverb¹ sayis, "as guid luif cumis as gaiß" :
 I will put on my hellye dayis clais,
 And mak me fresch aganis þis iolye may,
 Syne chant þis sang, "was nevir wedow so gay !"

'He was angrye and held ws in grete aw, 120
 And woundit with þe speir of ielosye ;
 Off chaumer glew, partlot, how weill 3e knaw,
 Waistit he was, of nature cald and drye.
 Sen he is gone, þairfore, sister, say I,
 Be blyith in bale, for þat is best remeid : 125
 Lat quik to quik, and deid go to the deid.'

Thus sprowtok,² þat feynzeit fayth befoir,
 In luste but luif þat sett all hir delyte,²
 'Syster, 3e watte, of sic as him a scoir
 May nocht³ suffise to slak 3our appetyte. 130
 I hecht 3ow be my hand, sen 3e ar quyte,
 Within a wolk, for schame and I durst speik,
 To gett a berne could better claw 3our breke.'⁴

¹ MS. 'proverd.'² Cf. pp. 40, 41.³ MS. 'May it nocht.' Cf. pp. 40, 41.⁴ MS. 'beke.' See pp. 40, 41.

BANNATYNE]

F. 312^a. Than coppok lyke a curate spak full crouß :

‘ Ȝone was ane verrey weangeance fra þe hevin ; 135

He was sa loweouß and so licherouß ;

Seiß coud he nocht with sissokkis¹ mo than sevin ;

Bot rychtuous god, haldand þe ballandis² evin,

Smytis full soir, thocht he be patient,

Adulteraris þat list þame nocht repent. 140

‘ Prydefull he was, and ioyit of his syn,

And comptit now þir of goddis falvour nor feid,

Bot traistit ay to rax and sa furth rin,

Till at þe last his synnis could him leid

To schamefull end, and to Ȝone suddane deid ; 145

Thairfore I wait it was þe hand of god

That causit him be wirreit with þe tod.’

Quhen þis was said, þe wedow fra hir swoun

Stert vp in haist, and on hir kennattis cryid,

‘ How ! birkye,³ burrye, bell, balsye broun, 150

Rypeschaw, ryn weill, courtesß, cutt, and clyid,

Togidder all but gruncheing furth Ȝe glyid !

Reskew my nobill cok, or he be slane,

Or ellis to me se Ȝe cum nevir agane.’

With þat, but bade, [þay] breddit our þe bent ; 155

As fyre of flynt þay⁴ our þe feildis flaw,

Wichtlye, I wiß, throw woddis and watteris went,

And seissit nocht þir lourence till thay saw.

Bot quhen he saw þe raches cum on raw,

Vnto þe cok he said in mynde, ‘ god then⁵ 160

Sen⁵ I and thow wer liftit in my den.’

¹ Enclosed thus in MS. sissokis . See pp. 40, 41.

² MS. ‘ballaneis.’

³ Cf. pp. 40, 41.

⁴ MS. ‘þat.’

⁵ See pp. 42, 43.

[BANNATYNE]

Than spak þe cok, *witʰ* sum guid spreit *in*spyrít,
 ‘Do my counsale, and I sall warrand the ;
 Hungrie thow art, and for grit travell tyrit,
 Rycht fant of force and may *nocht* forder flee : 165
 Swyith turne agane, and say, þat I and 3e
 Freindis ar maid and fallowis for a 3eir ;
 Than will þaj stynt, I stand for it, and *nocht* steir.’

This fox, thocht he was fals and friuelouß,
 And hes fraudis his quarrellis to defend, 170
 Dissautit was throw mynis marvellous ;
 For falsheid fail3eis at þe latter end.
 He turnit about and cryit as he was kend ;
Witʰ þat þe cok brade vnto a buche.
 Now reid 3e sall *quhair* at ßir lowrence luche. 175

Begylit thus, þe tod vnder a tree
 On knees fell, and said, ‘gude *chanteclere*,
 Cum doun agane, and I, but mete or fee,
 Salbe 3our man and servand for ane 3eir.’
 ‘Nay, murther theif and rivere, stand on reir ; 180
 My bludye hekill and my nek so bla
 Hes *pairtit* lowe for evir betwene ws twa.

‘I was vnwyis þat winkit at thy will,
 Quhairthrow allmaist I lossit had my heid.’
 ‘I was moir full,’ *quod* he, ‘coud nocht be still, 185
 But spake to put my pray vnto pleid.’
 ‘Fair on, fals theif, god keip me fra thy feid !’
Witʰ þat þe coke our feildis tuke þe flicht ;
 In at þe wedowis lewar coud he licht.

BANNATYNE]

MORALITAS.

F. 312 b. Now, worthy folk, suppois this be a fable, 190
 And ourhelit *wit* typis figurall,
 3it may 3e find a sentence rycht greabill,
 Vnder þe fenzeit *termys* textuall.

PRYD. Till oure purpois þis cok wele may we call
 A nyce proud man, void and vaneglorious 195
 Off kyn or gude, *quhilk* is *presumptuous*.

Fy ! pompouß pryde, thow art rycht poysonable,
 Quha fauouris the of force man haue a fall.
 Thy strenth is *nocht*, thy stule standis vnstable.
 Tak witneß of þe feindis *infernall*, 200
 Quhilk huntit war doun fro þe hevinly [h]all
 To hellis hole, and to þat hidous hous,
 Becaus of pryde þaj war *presumptuous*.

This feynit fox may wele be figurate
 To flatteraris *wit* plesand wirdis quhite, 205
 With fals menyng and mouth meliifuate,
 To loife and lee *quhilk* settis þair delyte.
 All worthy folk at sic suld hafe dispyte ;
 For quhair is moir *perilous* pestilence
 Than giff to liaris haistelye credence? 210

FLATTERY.

This wikkit wind of adulation,
 Off swete socour haifand a similitude,
 Bittir of gall and full of fell poyoun,
 Quha tastis it and clerelye vnderstude.
 Forthy as now schortly for to conclude, 215
 Thir twa *synnis*, flattery and vaine glore,
 Ar venemous : guid folk, fle þame *pairfore*.

[BANNATYNE]

THE FOX & THE WOLF.¹Incipit
aliam
fabulam.

LEWE we this wedow gled, I ȝow assure,
 Off chaunteclere more blyith than I can tell,
 And speke we of þe fatal aventure
 And destenye that to þis fox befell,
 That durst no more *wit* miching intermell, 5
 Als lang as leme and lycht was of þe day,
 But, bydand nycht, full still lurkand he lay ;

Quhill þat Thetes, þe goddess of þe flude,
 Phebus had callit to þe herberye,²
 And Esperus put of his cloudy hude, 10
 Schawand his lustye visage in þe skye.
 Than lourence lukit vp, quhare he coud lye,
 And kest him hand vpoun his Ee on hicht,
 Mery and gled þat cummyn was þe nycht.

Out of þe wod vnto ane hill he went, 15
 Quhare he mycht se the twynkling sternis clere,
 And all þe planetis of þe firmament,
 Thair coursis and þair moving in þair sphere,
 Sum retrograde, and sum war stationere ;
 And in þe ȝodyak in quhit degree 20
 Thaj were ilkane, as lourage lerit me.

¹ Title in the margin in a later hand.² MS. 'herverye.'

BANNATYNE]

Than saturne alde was enterit in capricorne,
 And Iupiter movit in sigittarye,
 And mars vp in þe rammys hede was borne,
 And phebus in þe lyoun furth coud carye ; 25
 Venus the crab, the mone was in aquarye ;
 Mercurius, þe god of eloquence,
 Into þe virgine maid his residence.

Bot astrolab, quadrant, or almanak,
 Techit of nature be instructioun, 30
 F. 313^a. The moving of the hevin this tod can tak,
 quhat influence and constillatioun
 Was lyk to fall vpone this erd heir down ;
 and to him self he said, withouttin mair,
 'Weill worth þe fadir, þat send me first to lair. 35

'My destany and eik my werd I watt ;
 Myn evintour is cleirly to me kend ;
 With mischeif myn³et is my mortall fait ;
 My mysleving the soner bot I mend :
 Deid is reward of syn and schamefull end. 40
 Thairfoir I will ga seik sum confessour,
 And scryfe me clene of all synnis to this hour.

'allace !' quod he, 'rycht [waryit ar¹] we thevis ;
 our lyfe is sett ilk nycht in avinture ;
 our cursit craft full mony ane mischevis ; 45
 for evir we steill, & evir alyk ar pure :
 In dreid and schame our dayis we indure ;
 and widdy nek and crakraip callit als,
 and syne till our hyre ar hangit be the hals.'

¹ See pp. 50, 51.

[BANNATYNE

Accusand thus his cankerit conscience, 50
 Vnto a craig he kest about his E;
 So saw he cumand a littill than frome thence,
 A worthy doctour of diuinite,
 Freir wolf waitskath, in science wondrous sle,
 To preche and pray was new cum of clostir, 55
 With beidis on hand, sayand his paternoster.

Seand the wolf, this wylie tratour tod
 on kneis fell, with hud in to his nek:
 'welcome, my gaistly fadir vndir god!'
 quod he, with mony binge and mony bek. 60
 Than quod the wolf, 'schir fox, to quhat effek
 mak 3e sic feir? ryß vp, put on 3our hude.'
 'fadir,' quod he, 'I haif grit cauß to dude.

'3e ar the lanterne and the sicker way,
 Suld gyd sic sympill folk as me to grace; 65
 3our bairfeit, and 3our [r]ousett¹ coull of gray,
 3our lene cheikis, 3our paill and petouß face,
 Schawis full weill 3our perfytt halynace;²
 for weill war him þat anis in his lyfe
 had hap to 3ow his synnis anis to schryfe.' 70

'a, silly lowrance,' quod the wolf, and lewch:
 'it plesß me þat 3e ar penitent.'
 'of reif and stowth, schir, I can tell ennewch,
 þat causß me full sair for till repent;
 Bot, fadir, byd still heir on this bent, 75
 I 3ow beseik, and heir me now declair
 my conscience þat prikis me so sair.'

¹ Cf. pp. 50, 51.² Lines 67 and 68 are transposed in the MS. Cf. pp. 50, 51.

BANNATYNE]

‘Weill,’ *quod* the wolf, ‘sit doun vpone thy kne.’
 and so he did, bairheid, full humly,
 and syn began *with* benedicite. 80
quhen I thus saw, I drew a littill by,
 for it effeiris nowdir to heir nor spy,
 nor to reweill thing said vndir that sele :
 bot to þe tod thus gait þe wolf *couth*¹ mele.

‘Art thou contreit & sory in thy spreit 85
 for thy trespas?’ ‘nay, *schir*, I *can* *nocht* dude :
 me think þat hennis ar sua hony sueit,
 & lambis flesch þat new ar lattin blud ;
 F. 313 b. For to repent my mynd *can* *nocht* conclude,
 bot this thing, þat I haif slane so few.’ 90
 ‘weill,’ *quod* the wolf, ‘in south thou art a schrew.

‘Sen thou *can* *nocht* forthink thy wicketnaiß,
 Will thou forbeir in tyme cuming, & mend?’
 ‘and I forbeir, how sall I leif, allaiß,
 haifand na vþir craft me to defend? 95
 neid causß me to steill *quhair* evir I wend.
 I schame to beg, I *can* *nocht* wirk, 3e wat,
 3it wald I fane pretend a gentill stait.’

‘Weill,’ *quod* the wolf, ‘thow wantis pontis twa,
 belangand to *perfy*t confessioun. 100
 Now to þe thrid *pairte* of pennance lat ws ga :
 Will thou tak pane for thy transgressioun?’
 ‘A, *schir*, consedir my complexioun,
 And seikly and waik & of my natur *tendir*,
 Lo, will 3e se, I am baith lene and sklendir. 105

¹ MS. ‘qd.’

[BANNATYNE

'3it nevir the les, I wald, sa it wer lycht,
 and schort, *nocht* grevand to my tendirneß,
 tak *pairte* of pane, fulfill it gife I nicht,
 To sett my silly saule in way of grace.'
 'Thow sall forbeir,' *quod* he, 'flesche hyne to paiß, 110
 To tame þi corß, that cûrsit carioun ;
 and heir I reik the full remissioun.'

'I grant þairto, sa 3e will gife me leif
 to eit puddingis, or laip a littill blude,
 or heid and feit, or penchis lat me preif, 115
 In caiß I faut of flesche in to my fude.'
 'for grit mister, I gife the leif to dude
 twyß in þe owl, for neid may haif no law.'
 'god 3eild 3ow, schir, for that text full weill ye¹ knaw.'

Quhen this was said, the wolf his wayis went. 120
 The fox in fute he fure vnto þe flude—
 To fang sum fische wes hellely his intent ;
 Bot quhen he saw thir walterand² wawis wode,
 all stoneist still into a stair he stude,
 and said, 'bettir þat I had biddin at hame, 125
 Than be a fischar in the deuill's name.

'Now mon I skraip my meit out of the sand,
 for I haif nowdir net, bottis, nor bate.'
 as he wes thus for falt of meit murnand,
 lukand about his leving for to late,³ 130
 vndir a tre he saw a trip of gate ;
 Than wes he fane, & in a huche him hid,
 and fra the gait he stall a littill kid.

¹ See pp. 54, 55.² See *ib.*³ See pp. 56, 57.

BANNATYNE]

Syne our the huche vnto þe se him hyis,
 and tuk the kid *rycht* be the hornis twane, 135
 and in þe wattir owþir twyß or thryß
 he dowkit him, & thus gait cownt^h he sane :
 ‘ga doun *schir* kid, cum vp *schir* salmound agane !’
 quhill he wes deid ; syne to þe land him drewch,
 and of þat new made salmond eit ennewch. 140

Thus fynaly fillit *wit^h* tendir meit,
 vnto a den for dreid he hes him drest,
 vndir a busk, quhair þat the sone cownt^h beit,
 F. 314 a. To beke his breist and bellye he thocht best ;
 And raklesye he said, quhair he coud rest, 145
 Strakand his wambe agane þis sonnes hete,
 ‘Vpoun this bellye ware sett a bolt full mete.’

Quhen this was said, the kepare of þe gayte,
 Carefull in hert his kid was stollin away,
 On everye syde full warlye culd he wayte, 150
 Till at þe last he saw quhair lowrence lay ;
 His bow he bent, a flane *wit^h* fedderis gray
 He hailit to þe heid ; or evir he sterd,
 The fox fast he prikkit to þe erd.

‘Now,’ *quod* þe fox, ‘alace and welloway ! 155
 Gorrit I am and may no forther gane¹ ;
 Methink no man may speke a word in play,
 Bot now on dayis in ernist it is tane.’
 The hird him hynt, and out he drew a flane ;
 And for his kid and vþir violence, 160
 He tuke his skyn, and maid a recompence.

¹ Cf. pp. 58, 59.

[BANNATYNE

MORALITAS. This suddane deid and vnprouisit end
 Off this fals tod, *wit*hout contritioun,
 Exemple is exhortand folk to mend,
 For dreid of sic alyke conclusioun ; 165
 For monye gois now to confessioun
 Can *nocht* repent, nor for þair synnis greit,
 Becaus thaj think þair lustye lyfe so sweet.

Sum bene also, throw consuetude and vyce,
 Vincust *wit*h carnall sensualitie ; 170
 Suppose thaj be as for þe tyme contryte,
 Can nane forbere, nor fra thair synnis Flee :
 Ws[e] drawis nature so in propertie
 Off beist and man, þat nedis thaj mon do,
 as thai of lang tyme hawe hantit þame to. 175

Beware, guid folk, and dreid this suddane schote,
 Quhilk smytis soir withouttin resistance ;
 attent wyislye, and in *your* hartis note,
 aganis deid may no man mak defence ;
 Ceis of *your* syn, remord *your* conscience, 180
 Do wilfull pennance here, and þe sall wend,
 Eftir *your* deid, to ioy withouttin end.

Explicit exemplum veritatis et falsitatis.

BANNATYNE]

THE FOX TRYED BEFORE THE LYON.¹

THIS foirsaid fox, thus deid for his misdede,
 had nocht a sone was gottin rychtuuslye,
 That to his airschip mycht of law succede,
 Except ane sone, the quhilk in lemanrye ²
 He gottin had in purchase priuely, 5
 And to his name was clepit fader were,
 That luft wele with pultry tig and tere.

It followis wele be reasoun naturale,
 And gree be gree of rycht comparisoun,
 Off evill cummys war, of ware cummys warst of all, 10
 Off wrangus get cummys wrang successioun.
 This fox, bastard of generatioun,
 Off verrie kynd behufit to be fals;
 So was his grantschir and his fader als.

F. 314 b. As nature will, sekand his fude be sent, 15
 Off caiß he fand his faderis caryon,
 Naikit, new slane; and till him is he went,
 Tuke vp his hede, syne on his kneis Fel down,
 Thankand grete god of þat conclusioun;
 And said, 'now sall I brouk, sen I am aire, 20
 The boundis quhare he wont was to repaire.'

¹ Title in the margin in later hand.² MS. 'lemanrye.'

[BANNATYNE

Fy ! covetous, vnkynd and venemous :
 The sone was fayn he fand his fader dede,
 Be sudane schote for dedeis¹ odious,
 That he mycht rax and regne into his stede, 25
 Dredand nothing þat samin lyife to lede,
 In stouth and reif, as he had done before ;
 Bot to þe end entent he tuke no more.

3it, nevirþeles, for faderlye pitee,
 The caryon vpoun his bak he tais : 30
 ‘ Now find I wele þis prouerbe trew,’ *quod* he,
 ‘ “ Ay rynnys þe fox als lang as he fut hais.” ’
 Syne *wit* his cors vnto a petpot gais,
 Off watere full, and kest him *in* þe depe,
 And to þe devill his banis gave to kepe. 35

O fuliche *man* ! ploungit in warldlynes,
 To conquest *wrangwiß* guidis, gold, or rent,
 To put thy saule in pane and hevynes,
 To riche thyne air, *quhilk* eftir þow be went,
 Haue he thy gude, he takis small entent 40
 To sing or say for thy saluatioun :
 Fra thow be dede, done is thy deuotioun.

This tod to rest he carit to a crag,
 And herd a bustouß bugill brymly blawe,
 Quhilk, as him *thocht*, maid all þis warld to wag. 45
 Than stert I² wp, and cumand nere I² sawe
 Ane vnicorne semely lansand our lawe,
 Wit^h horne in hand, and buste on brest he bure,
 A pursevant semelye, I þow assure.

¹ MS. ‘ dede is.’² Cf. pp. 62, 63.

BANNATYNE]

Vnto a bank, quhair he mycht se about 50
 On euery syde, In haste he coud him hye,
 Put furth his voce full loud, and gave a schout,
 And, 'oyas ! oyas !' twiſ or thriſ coud cry.
 With þat the beſtis in þe feildis nere by,
 All meruailand quhat ſic a cry ſuld mene, 55
 Govand¹ agast, thaj gadderit on a grene.

Out of his buſte a bill ſone coud he braide,
 And red þe text *wit*houttyn tarying ;
 Commaundand ſilence, ſadly thus he ſaid :
 'We, noble lyoun, of all beiſtis king, 60
 Greting to god ay leſtand but ending,
 To brutall beſtis and Irrationall,
 I ſend, as to my ſubiectis grete and ſmall.

'My celsitude and hie magnificence,
 Lattis 3ow witt furth*wit*h incontinent, 65
 Thinkis to morne, *wit*h riall diligence,
 Vpoun þis hill to hald a *parliament* ;
 Straitlye *þairfore* I geve *commandment*
 For to *compeir* before my tribunall,
 Vnder all pane and parrell þat may fall.' 70

The morowing come, and phebus *wit*h his bemys
 Conſumit had þe myſty cloudis gray ;
 F. 315 a. The ground was grene, and as þe gold it glemys,
 With gresis growand gudeliſ, grete, and gay ;
 The ſpice than ſpred to ſpring on euery ſpray ; 75
 The lark, þe mauis, and þe merle ſo hee,
 Suetlye *can* ſing, trippand¹ fra tree to tree.

¹ Cf. pp. 64, 65.

[BANNATYNE]

Thre leopardis come, a croun¹ of massy gold
 Berand thaj brocht vnto þat hillis hicht,
 With iaspis iunynt and riall rubies rold, 80
 And monye diuerß dyamantis wele dicht ;
 With pollis proud a palzoun doun þaj picht ;
 And in þat trone thair sat a wild lyoun,
 In rob riale, *witʰ* ceptur, suerd, and croun.

Efter þe tennour of þe crye before, 85
 That gais on fut all bestis in þe erd,²
 Rycht as þaj ware *commandit* *witʰout* more,
 Before þair lord þe lyon þaj comperd ;
 And quhat þaj ware, as tod laurence me lerd,
 I sall reherß a pairt of ewery kynd, 90
 Als far as now occurris to my mynd.

The menataur, a monstour *mervelouß*,
 Bellorophant, that beist of bastarde,
 The warwolf, and þe pegasß peroluß,
 Transformit be assent of socerre, 95
 The lynx, the tegir full of tyrrane,
 The oliphant, and eik the dromodare,
 The camell with his cran craig furth culd care.

The leopard, as I haif taute beforene,
 The antelop, the sparth furth culd hir speid, 100
 The paynttit panther, & the vnicorne ;
 The raynder ran throuch rever, ron, and reid,
 The Iolye Ionet, and the gentill steid,
 The aiß, the mwill, the horß of ewerye kynd ;
 The de, the re, the hornit hairt, the hynd. 105

¹ MS. 'craun.'² Cf. pp. 66, 67.

BANNATYNE]

The bull, the beir, the bugill, and þe bair,
 The wodwyß, wilcat, & the wild wolfyne,
 The hard-bak hurtchoun, and the hyrpilland hair,
 Bayth ottour, aip, and pennytt porcapyne,
 The guckit gait, the syllye scheip, the Suyne, 110
 The ~~bauer~~ bakon, and the ~~batter~~and brok,
 The fumard, with þe fyber furth culd flok.

The gay¹ grwhund, the sleuthhund furth can slyd,
 With doggis all dyuerß and deferent ;
 The rattoun ran, the globert furth culd glyd, 115
 The quherland quhithrat with þe wasyll wentt,
 The fythow that hes furrit mony ane fent,
 The martyrk, with þe cunyng & the con,
 The lurdane lane,¹ & eik the lerion.

F. 315 b. The mermissat the modewart could leid, 120
 Becaus that natour denyit had hir sycht.
 Thus dressit þai all furt~~h~~ for dreid of deid,
 The musk, the litill mowß *with* all hir mycht
 In haist haykit vnto þat hillis *hycht* ;
 And mony ane kynd of beist þat I *nocht* knaw, 125
 Befoir þair lord Ilkane þai lowtit law.

Seand thir beistis at his bidding bowñ,
 He gave a braide, and blenkit all about ;
 Than flatlingis to his feit þai fell all douñ,
 For dreid of deid thay drowpit all in dout. 130
 The lyoun lukit quhen he saw þame lout,
 And bad þaim, *with* ane countenance full sweet,
 'Be *nocht* afferit, bot stand vpoun 3our feit.

¹ Cf. pp. 68, 69.

[BANNATYNE

' I lat 3ou wit my mycht is merceabill,
 And steris none þat ar to me prostrat, 135
 Angrye, austerne, and als vnameabill,
 To all þat standis aganis myne estait.
 I rug, I ryve all beistis þat makis debait
 Aganis þe mycht of my magnefecence :
 Se none pretend to pryde in my presence. 140

' My celsitude and my hie maiestye
 With mycht and mercye myngit salbe ay ;
 The lawest heir I may rycht sone vp hie,
 And mak him maister ouer 3ou all I may.
 The dromadair, gif he will mak deray, 145
 Or the greit cameill, thocht þai be neuir sa crouß,
 I can þame law as litill as ane mowß.

' Se neir be xxti mylis quhair I am
 The kid ga salfie be þe wolf syde ;
 Se tod lowrye luke nocht vpoun þe lamb, 150
 Na revand beistis nowther ryn nor ryde.'
 Thay cucheit all ; and, eftir þis wes cryd,
 The iustice bad anone þe court do fenß,
 The sutis call, and foirfalt all absenß.

The panthere, with his payntit coit of armour, 155
 fensit þe court, as he of law efferit ;
 Tod laurence lukit vp quhair he could lowr,
 and stert on fute, all stoneist, and all sterit ;
 Ryvand his hair, he rarit with a reird,
 Quakand for dreid, and ¹ sichand could he say, 160
 ' Allace þis hour, allace þis wofull day !

¹ MS. 'ran.' Cf. pp. 70, 71.

BANNATYNE]

F. 316 a. 'I wait this suddane semblay þat I se,
 havand þe poyntis of a parliament,
 Is maid to mar sic misdoaris as me ;
 Thairfoir, and I me schaw, I wilbe schent ; 165
 I wilbe socht gif I be red absent ;
 To byde or fle it makis no remeid ;
 all is alyke, þair followis nocht bot deid.'

Perplexit thus in to his mynd can mene
 with falsheid quhow he mycht him self defend ; 170
 his hude he drew far douñ attour his ene,
 and, wynkand with þe ane E, furth can wend ;
 clyncheand he come, þat he suld nocht be kend,
 and for dreddour þat he suld thoill areist,¹
 he playit bukhud anone, fra beist to beist. 175

² Compering thus þai³ come befoir the king,
 in ordour sett as to þair stait efferit,
 Off euerye kynd he gart ane pairt furth bring,
 and awfulye he spak, and at þame speirit
 gif þair wis ony beist in to þis erd 180
 Absent, and þair gart þaim all deiplie sweir ;
 And þai said, 'Nay, except ane gray stude meir.'

'Go, mak ane message sone vnto þat stude.'
 The court þan cryit, 'My lord, quha sall þat be ?'
 'Cum heir, lowrye, lurkand vndir ane hude.' 185
 'A lord mercye ! lo, I have bot ane E ;
 Hurt in þe hanch, and crukit 3e may se ;
 The wolf is bettir in ambassadrye,
 and mair cunning in clergie þan I.'

¹ MS. 'a reist.'

² Two stanzas of Charteris and Harl. here omitted (see pp. 72, 73).

³ MS. 'he.'

[BANNATYNE

Braiding he said, 'go furt*h*, 3e brybouris bayt*h*!' 190

And þai to ga wi*th*outin tareying.

Our ron and ryce þai ran togidder rayt*h*,

And fand þe meir at meit in þe morning.

'how,' quod the tod, 'Madame, go to þe king,

The court is callit, and 3e ar contumax.' 195

'Lat be, laurence, 3our carping & 3our knax.'

'Maistres,' quod the tod, 'to þe court 3e mon ;

The lyoun hes commandit 3ou in deid.'

'Laurence, tak 3ou þe flirdome, & þe fon,

I have a respit heir, and 3e will rede.' 200

'I can nocht spell a word, sa god me speid !

Heir is þe wolf, a nobill clerk at all,

And of þis message he is principall.

'He is autentik, and a man of aige,

And hes þe practik of þe chancellor ; 205

Lat him ga luke and reid 3our preuilege,

And I sall stand, and beir 3ou witnes by.'

'Quhair is 3our respit?' quod þe wolf in hy.

'Sir, It is heir, vndir my hoife weill hid.'

'Hald vp 3our hele,' quod he ; and sa scho did. 210

Thocht he wes brynt throuch pryde, 3it he presumis
To luke doun law, quhair þat þir lettres lay.

F. 316 b. Wi*th* that þe mere scho gird him on þe gumys,

And strake þe hattrell of his hede away.

Half out of lyfe, lenand douñ he lay : 215

'Alace !' quod lourence, 'lupus, þat þow art lost.'

'His connyng,' quod þe mere, 'was wirth sum cost.'

BANNATYNE]

'Lourans, will thow nocht luke vpoun my letter,
 Sen þat þe wolf þairof can nothing wyn?'
 'Nay, be sanct bryde,' *quod* he, 'me think far better 220
 To slepe in hele and in ane vnhurt skyn.
 A scroll I fand, and thus writtin *þairin*,
 —for v ß I wald *nocht* anys *faltum*¹—
 "Felix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum."

With brokin skalp, and bludye chekis rede, 225
 This wolf wepand on his wayis went,
 Off his maynþe *merkand* to gete remede;
 To tell þe king the caiß was his entent.
 'Schir,' *quod* þe tod, 'bid still vpoun þe bent,
 And fra þour browis wesche away þe blude, 230
 And tak a drink, for it will do þow gude.'

To fech water this fraudfull fox furth fure,
 Sidlingis a bauk² he socht vnto a sike;
 Off caiß he metis, *cumand* fra þe mure,
 A trip of *lambis* dansand on a dike. 235
 This traytour tod, this tyran, and this tike,
 The fattest of þe flok he fellit has,
 And ete his fill; syne to þe wolf he gais.

Thay drank but tary, and thare Iournay takis;
 Befoir þe king syne knelit on thare knee. 240
 'Quhare is þe mere, *schir* tod, was contumax?'
 Than lourance said: 'my lord, spere *nocht* at me!
 This new maid doctour of diuinitee,
 With his rede cap, can tell þow wele yneuch.'
 With þat þe lyon and þe lave þaj leuch. 245

¹ See pp. 76, 77.² See pp. 78, 79.

[BANNATYNE

'Tell on the caiff, *schir* lourence, lat ws here.'
 'This witty wolf, this noble clerk of aige,
 On *your* behalf he bad þe mere compere,
 And scho allegit till a preuilege—
 "Cum nere and se, and 3e sall have *your* vage." 250
 Becauß he red hir respit plane and wele,
 3one rede bannete scho raucht him *with* hir hele.'

The *lyoun* said, 'be 3one rede cap I ken
 This tale is trew, quha tent vnto it takis;
 The grettest clerkis ar *nocht* þe wyßest men; 255
 A *mannis* hurt ane other happy makis.'
 As þaj ware carpand thusgatis in knakis,
 And all þe court in garray and in gam,
 Sa come the 3ow, þe moder of þe lam.

Before þe iustice douñ on knees Fell, 260
 Put furth hir playnt on þis wiß wofullye:
 'This harlot here, this hursoun hund of hell,
 He werryit hes my lam full doggitlye,
*With*in a myle, in contrare¹ of *your* cry.
 For goddis lufe, my lord, gif me þe lawe 265
 Off þis *lymmar*.' *with* þat lourence lete drawe.

F. 317 a. 'Bide,' *quod* the lyon, 'lemmar, lat ws se
 Giff this be suyt*h* þe sely 3ow has said.'
 'A, souerane lord, sauf *your* mercy,' *quod* he,
 'My purpois was *with* him bot to have plaid; 270
 Caußles he fell, as he had bene affraid;
 For drede of dede he duschit our a dike,
 And brak his nek.' 'thow leis,' *quod* scho, 'fals tike!

¹ MS. 'incontrare.'

BANNATYNE]

' His dede be practik may be previt eth :
 Thy gorry gomys and thy bludy snowt, 275
 The woll, þe flesche ȝit stikkis in thy teth,
 And that is euident eneuch, but dout.'
 The iustice bad go cheið a sið a bout ;
 And so thaj did, and fand þat he was fals,
 Off murthour, thift, and party tresoun als. 280

Thaj band him fast, the Iustice bad belyve
 To geve þe dome, and tak of all his clathis ;
 The wolf, that new maid doctour, coud him shryve ;
 Syne furth *wit* him vnto þe gallowis gais,
 And at þe ledder fute his leue he tais ; 285
 The ape was basare, and bad him sone ascend,
 And hangit him ; and thus he maid ane end.

MORALITAS.¹ Rycht as þe mynoure in his mynorall
 Faire gold *wit* fyre may fra þe lede wele wyn,
 Rycht sa vnder a fable figurall 290
 A sad sentence may seke, and efter fyne,
 As daylie dois thir doctouris of dyvyne,
 Apertly be oure leving can applye,
 And preue thare preching be a poesye.

 The lyon is this warld be liklynace, 295
 To quhom lowtis bayt*h* empr*u*our and king,
 And thinkis of this warld to get mare grace,
 And gapis for to get mare lifing ;
 Sum for to reule, and sum to rax and regne,
 Sum gadderis gere, sum gold, sum vther gude ; 300
 To wyn this warld sum wirkis as þaj wer wode.

¹ Cf. this text with the texts on pp. 82-85, with which Hart is in general agreement.

[BANNATYNE

This mere is men of contemplatioun,
 Off pennance walkand in þis wildernace,
 As monkis and othir men of religioun,
 That presis god to pleiſ in euery place ; 305
 Abstrackit fra this warldlis wretchidnes,
 In wilfull pouertee, fra pomp and all pryde,
 And fra this warld in mynd ar mortifyde.

This wolf I likkin vnto sensualitee,
 As quhen, like brutall bestis, we accord 310
 Our mynd all to þis warldeis vanitee,
 Liking to tak and love him as our lord :
 Flee fast þairfra, gif þow will rycht remord ;
 Than sall reasoun riſ, rax, and regne,
 And for thy saull þair is no better thing. 315

Hir hufe¹ I likkin to þe thocht of dede.
 Will thou remembere, man, that thou man dee ?
 F. 317 b. Thow may brek sensualiteis hede,
 And fleschlye lust away fra þe sall flee ;
 Wiſſ salomone sais, will thou nochť see, 320
 For as thou may thy sely saull now wyne,
 ‘Think on thine end, thou sall nochť gladlye syn.’

This tod I likin to temptatioun,
 Berand to mynd monye thochtis vane,
 That daylie sagis men of religioun, 325
 Cryand to þame, ‘Cum to þe warld agane !’
 Bot quhen thaj see sensualitie neir slane,
 And sudane dede with ithand panis sore,
 He gois abak, and temptis him no more.

¹ MS. ‘lufe.’

BANNATYNE]

O lord eternall, medeator for ws mast meke, 330
 Sitt doun before thy fader celestiall,¹
 For ws synnaris his celsitude beseke,
 Ws to defend fra payne and perallis all;
 And help ws vp vnto þat hevinlye hall,
 In glore, quhair we may se þe sycht of god.— 335
 And thus endis þe talking of þe tod.

Explicit.

THE COCK & þE IEWELL.

PROLOG.

F. 326 b. **T**HOC^hT fenzeit fables of auld poetre
 Be noch^t grundit all vpoun trewt^h, 3it than
 Thair poleit termis of sueit retory
 ar rycht olesand vnto the heir of man;
 and als þe cauß quhi thay first began 5
 Was to repreife þe vyce of mysdoing
 of man, be fegour of ane vþir thing.

In lyk maner as throw a bustvows² erd,
 So it be lawborit with grit diligence,
 Springis þe flouris and þe cornis brerd 10
 hailsum and gud to manis sustenance,
 So springis þair a morall sueit sentence
 out of þe scitell dyt of poetre,
 To gud purpoiß, quha culd it rycht aply.

¹ In the MS. the lines—

O mary myld, mediatowr of mercy meke,
 Sitt doun before thy sone celestiall,

have been stroked out, and those in the text written in above in the same hand.

² MS. indistinct. Cf. pp. 2, 3, 223.

[BANNATYNE

Thir nutis schellis, thocht þai be hard and tuich, 15
 F. 327 a. Thay hald þe cirnall sueit and delectable :
 So lȳis þair a doctryne wyse anewch,
 and full of fruct vndir a fenȳeit fable.
 als clerkis sayis, it is rycht proffitable
 Amang ernyst to myng a mirry sport, 20
 To blyth þe spreit, and gar þe tyme be schort.

For as we se þe bow þat ay is bent
 Wordis vnsmart and dullis on þe string,
 So dois þe mynd þat is ay diligent
 In ernyst thocht and in studeing : 25
 With sad materis sum mirrineß to myng
 Accordis weill ; thus Isop, I wiß,
 ‘Dulcius arident seria picta Iocis.’

Off þis poyet, my masteris, with ȳour leife—
 I me deffer to ȳour correctioun— 30
 In moder tong of latyne I wald preife
 To mak a maner of translatioun ;
 Nocht of my self for vane presumptioun,
 Bot be requeist and prayeris of a lord,
 off quhome þe name it neidis nocht record. 35

In hamely langage and in *ter*mis rud
 me neidis wryt, For quhy of eloquence
 no[r] rethory I neuir vndirstud.
 Thairfoir meikly I pray ȳour reuerens,
 Gife ȳe fynd ocht þat throw my negligence 40
 Or diminut, or ȳit superfluys,
 Correct at ȳour willis graciuss.

BANNATYNE]

Myne auctour in his fable tell*s* how¹
 þat brutall beistis spak and vndirstud,
 and till gud purpois̃ disput and argow, 45
 a sylogysme propone, and eik exclud ;
 putting² axample and symilitude,
 how mony men in operatioun
 ar lyk to beistis in þair conditioun.

No mervell is a man be lyk a beist, 50
 Quhilk leivis ay in carnall fowll delyte ;
 That schame can noch*t* derenze nor arreist,
 Bot takis all þair lust and appetyt,
 Quhilk throw þe custome and þe dayly ryte

F. 327 b. Syn in þe mynd is sa fast radicat 55
 That he in brutall beist be transformat.

This noble clerk ysop, as I haif towld,
 In gay metir facound and purperat,
 Be fegour wret his buk, for he noch*t* would
 Tak þe disdane of he nor law estate. 60
 And to begyn, first at a cok he wrate,
 Seikand his meit, quhilk fand a Ioly stone,
 Off quhome þe fable þe sall heir annone.

A COK, sumtyme, with fethreme fresch and gay,³
 rycht cant and crouß, suppois̃ he was bot pure, 65
 Flew furt*h* at a doun[g]hill sone be day ;
 To get his denner sett was all his cure :
 Screpand amang þe aß, be auenture
 He fand a Ioly Iasp, rycht pretiouß,
 Was castin furth in suowpyne of þe houß. 70

¹ MS. 'fow.'² Cf. pp. 4, 5.³ MS. 'gray.'

[BANNATYNE

As madynis wantoun and insolent,
 That fane wald play, and on þe streit be sene,
 To swopyne of þe houß takis no tent,
 Quhat be þairin swa þat þe flure be clene ;
 Iowalis ar tynt, as oft tymes hes bene, 75
 And in þe swowpyne is castin furtʰ annone—
 Perauentour, swa waß þe samyn stone.

Swa mervelland vpone þe stone, *quod* he,
 ‘o gentill gem ! o riche and noble thing !
 Thocht I þe fynd, thow ganis nocht for me ; 80
 Thow art a Iowall for ony warldly king.
 It war pety thow suld in this midding
 be bvirt thus among þis mvk and mwd,
 and thow so deir and worth so mekle gude.

‘It is pety I suld þe fynd, for quhy 85
 Thy grit vertew, nor ʒit thy culloʊr cleir,
 I may nowþir extoll nor magnify ;
 And thow to me ma mak bot littill cheir.

F. 328 a. To grit lordis thocht thow be leif and deir,
 I lawfe fer bettir thing of leß awaill, 90
 as cafe, or corne, to fill my tome entrell.

‘I had leur go skraip heir wíth my nailis
 among þis moll, and luk my lyvis fude,
 as corne, or drafe, small worme, or [s]naillis,
 or ony meit wald do my stomok gude, 95
 nor of Iespis a mekle multitude :
 and thow agane, vpoun þe samyn wyiß,
 may me as now for thyne awaill dispyiß.

BANNATYNE]

'Thow hes no corne, and þairof I had neid ;
 Thy cullour dois bot comfort to þe sicht, 100
 and þat is *nocht annwch* my wame to feid ;
 For wyse men sayis þat lukand wark was lycht.
 []¹
 for hungry men may *nocht* weill leif on loikis :
 had I dry breid, I keipit *nocht* no kokis. 105

Quhair suld thow mak þi tributatioun² ?
 quhair suld thow dwell, bot in a ryall tour ?
 quhair suld thow sit, bot one a kingis croun,
 exalt in wirchep and in gret honour ?
 ryß, gentill Iaspis, of all stonis þe flour, 110
 out of þis aß, and paß quhair thow suld be ;
 Thow ganis *nocht* for me, nor I for the.'

Levand this Iowall full law vpone þe ground,
 To seik sum meit this cok his wayis went ;
 Bot quhen, or quhair, or quhow it was found, 115
 As now I sit to hold no argument :
 Bot of þe inwart sentence and intent
 of þis fable, as myne awtour dois wit,²
 I sall reherß in rude and hamely dyt.

MORALITE. This Ioly Iasp hes properteis sevin : 120
 The first, of collouris it is *mervellouß*,
Pairte lyk þe fyre, and *pairte* is lyk þe hevin,
 And makis a man stark and victorius ;
Preservis als fra caisß *perrellouß* :
 Quha hes this stone sall haif gud hap to speid, 125
 off fyre nor fallis him neidis *nocht* to dreid.

¹ The line is omitted in Bannatyne. See pp. 8, 9, 226.

² See pp. 10, 11, 227.

[BANNATYNE

F. 328 b. This gentill Iesp, oft different in hew,
 Betakinis *perfy*t prudens and *cunnyng*,
 ornat *wit*h mony deidis of vertew,
 moir excelland than ony erdly thing, 130
 Quhilk makis men in honour ay to ring,
 Happy, and stark to haif þe victory
 Off all vicis and sprituall ennemy.

Quha may be rycht hardy and gracious?
 Quha *can* enschew *perrell* and aventure? 135
 Quha *can* gowern citie and burchgus
*With*out science? non, I ȝow ensure.
 It is þe riches þat evir sall indure,
 Quhilk motht, nor mwst, may *nocht* rwst nor ket,¹
 and to manis sawll it is *eternall* met. 140

This cok, desyring moir þe symple corne
 Thane ony Iasp, onto þe fule is peir,
 makand at science bot a knak and skorne,
 Quhilk *can* no gud, and als littill will leir;
 his hairt wamill^s gud argumentis till heir, 145
 As to¹ þe sow, to quhome men for the nons
 In hir drafe troch wald saw þe pretius stons.

Quha is *ennemy* to science & *cunnyng*
 Bot ignorantis þat vndirstandis *nocht*?
 Quhilk is so noble, pretius, and ding 150
 That may *nocht* *wit*h no erdly thing be bocht.
 Weill war þe man of all vþir, þat mocht
 all his lyfe dayis in *perfyte* study war
 To get science; for him nedit no mair.

¹ See pp. 12, 13, 228.

BANNATYNE]

Bot now, allaiß, this Iasp is tynt and hid : 155
 We seik it *nocht*, nor preisß it to find.
 haif we riches, no bettir lyfe we bid,
 off science *thocht* þe saull be bair and blind.
 of þis mater I do bot waistis wind,
 Thairfoir I seiß, and will no forder say : 160
 go seik the jasp quha list, for þair it lay.

Explicit : *quod* m̄r R. H.THE MOUSS AND THE PADDOCK.¹

F. 329 a. **V**PONE a tyme, as ysop *can* report,
 A littill mouß come till a rever syd ;
 Scho mycht *nocht* waid, hir schankis wer so schort ;
 Scho cowth *nocht* sowme, s[ch]o had no horß till ryd :
 off verry forß behuivit hir to byd, 5
 and to and fro vpone þat rever deip
 Scho *ran*, cryand *wit*h mony peteuß peip.

‘Help our, help our,’ the silly mowß *can* cry,
 ‘For godis lufe, sum body our this bryme.’
 With þat a paddok, on þe wattir by, 10
 put vp hir heid, and on þe bank cowth clyme,
 quhilk be natur gowth dowk and gaylie swyme ;
 Wit^h voce full rawk, scho said on this maneir :
 ‘Gud morne, deme mowß, quhat is 3our erand heir?’

¹ Title in the margin in a later hand.

[BANNATYNE

‘Seis thow,’ *quod* scho, ‘of corne 3one Ioly flat, 15
 of ryp aitis, of beir, of peiß, and quheit?
 I am hungry, and fane wald be þairat,
 Bot I am stoppit heir be this wattir greit;
 And on þis syd I get no thing till eit
 Bot hard nutis, quhilk *wit*h my teith I boir. 20
 War I bezond, my feist wald be þe moir.

‘I haif no boit; heir is no mareneir;
 And *thocht* thair ware, I haif no frawcht to pay.’
Quod scho, ‘sistir, lat be 3our havy cheir;
 Do my counsall, and I sall fynd the way 25
Withowttin horß, brig, boit, or 3it gally,
 To bring 3ow our saifly—be *nocht* affeird!—
 And *nocht* to weit þe campis of 3our beird.’

‘I haif *mervell* than,’ *quod* þe silly mowß,
 ‘How thow can fleit *without* feddir or fyn. 30
 The reuer is so deip and dengerouß,
 Me think þat thow suld drowin to wed þairin.
 Tell me, þairfoir, quhat faculty or gyn
 Thow hes to bring me our þis wattir wan.’
 That to declair the paddok thus began. 35

‘With my twa feit,’ *quod* scho, ‘lukkin and braid,
 In steid of airis, I row þe streme full still;
 Suppoiß þe bruk be *perrellus* to waid,
 Baith to and fro I swyme at my awin will.
 I may *nocht* droun, for quhy myne oppin gill 40

F. 329^b. Devoydis ay the watter I ressaif;
 Thairfoir to droun forsuth no dreid I haif.’

BANNATYNE]

The mowß beheld onto her fronsyt face,
 Hir runclit beik, and hir lippis syd,
 Hir hyngand Browis, and hir voce so hace, 45
 Hir logrand leggis, and hir harsky hyd.
 Scho ran abak, and on þe paddok cryd :
 ‘gife I *can* any skeill of fysnomy,
 Thow hes sum *pairte* of frawd and als invy.

‘For clerkis sayis þe inclinatioun 50
 of *manis thocht persavis commounly*
 eftir þe corporall complexioun
 Till gud or yll, as natur will apply :
 A frawart will, a thrawin phisnomy.
 The auld proverb is witneß of this Lorum : 55
 “Distortum vultum sequitur distortio morum.”’

‘Na,’ *quod* the taid, ‘þat proverb is *nocht* trew ;
 for fair thingis oft tymes ar fowll fakin.
 Thir bla berryis, *thocht* thay be blak of hew,
 Ar gaddrit vp quhen *prumroß* is forsakin. 60
 The face may fail to be þe hairtis taikin.
 Thairfoir I fynd in scriptour in a place :
 Thow suld *nocht* iuge a *man* eftir his face.

‘*Thocht* I vnlusty be to luk vpone,
 I haif no wyt quhy suld I lakkit be ; 65
 War I als fare as ioly absalone,
 I am *nocht* causer of þat grit bewte.
 This *differens* in forme and qualite
 Almychty god hes cawsit dame nature
 To prent and set in every creature. 70

[BANNATYNE

'Off sum þe face may be *rycht* flurisand,
With silkin tong and cheir most amorus,
With mynd inconstant, fals, and variand,
 Full of dissait and menys cautelus.'

'Lat be preching,' *quod* þe hungry mouß, 75
 'And be quhat craft thow gar me vndirstand
 how thow wald gyd me to þe 3ondir land.'

F. 330 a. 'Thow wait,' *quod* scho, 'a body þat hes neid
 To help þame selff suld mony wayis cast ;
 Thairfoir go tak a dowble twynnit threid, 80
 And bind þi leg to myne with knotis fast.
 I sall the leir to swyme—be *nocht* agast !'
 'Is þat þi counsale,' *quod* þe silly mouß ;
 'To preif þat play it wer our *perrellouß*.

'Suld I be bund and fast quhair I am fre, 85
 In howp of help, nay *than* eschrew ws baith,
 For I *mycht* loß both lyfe and libertie.
 Gife it wer sa, quha *mycht* amend my skaith ?
 Bot gife thow sueir to me þe murthour aith
 But frawd or gyle, to bring me our this flude 90
 But hurt or harme——' *quod* scho, 'in faith, I dude.'

Scho golkit vp, and to þe hevin *can* cry :
 'How, Iupiter, of natur god and king,
 I mak ane aith to the trewly, that I
 This littill mouß sall our þe wattir bring.' 95
 This aith was maid ; this mouß, but *persawing*
 of fals ingyne of this fals crabit¹ taid,
 Tuk threid and band hir leg, as scho hir bad.

¹ See p. 212.

BANNATYNE]

Than fute for fute thay lap baith in þe brime ;
 Bot in þair mynd thay wer *rycht* different : 100
 The mowß *thocht* na thing bot to fleit and swyme,
 The paddok for to slay set hir intent.
 quhen þai in mydwart of the streme wer went,
 With all hir forß þe paddok dowkit doun,
 and *thocht* the mouß without mercy to droun. 105

Persevand this, the mouß on hir gan cry :
 'trator to god, and mansworne onto¹ me,
 Thow swoir þe murthour aith, saifly þat I,
 But harne or hurt, suld ferreid be & fre ;'
 And quhen scho saw þair waß bot do or dy, 110
 Scho bowtit vp and foirsit hir to swyme,
 and preisit on þe taidis bak to clyme.

The dreid of deid hir strenthis gave increß,
 and fandit hir defend with mony mane.
 The mowß vpwart, the paddok doun can preß ; 115
 Quhile to, quhile fra, quhile dowk, quhile vp agane.
 F. 330 d. This silly mouß, this plungit in grit pane,
 can fecht als lang as breth wes in hir breist,
 Till at þe last scho cryit for a preist.

Sichand thus gait, a gled sat on a twist, 120
 And to þis wrechit battell tuk gud heid ;
 And with a wisk, or owpir of þame wist,
 he claucht his cluke betuene þame in the threid ;
 Syne to þe land he flew with þame gud speid,
 fane of þat fang, py pand with mony pew ; 125
 Syne lowsit þame, and bayth but pety slew.

¹ MS. 'on to.'

[BANNATYNE]

Syne bowellit þame, þat bowchir *witʰ* his bill,
 And bellyflawcht full fetly he þame flaid ;
 Bot baith þair flesche wald skant be half a fill,
 And gutis als, vnto þat gredy gled. 130
 off þair debait thus quhen I ha[r]d ¹ owt red,
 he tuk his flicht, and our þe feildis he flaw :
 gife þis be trew, speir ȝe at þame þat saw.

MORALITAS.

My brother, gif thow will tak aduertens
 Till þis fable, thow may *persaif* and se, 135
 It pass far alkynd of pestilens,
 a wicket mynd *witʰ* wirdis fair and sle.
 Be war þairfoir, quhome *witʰ* þow followis ² the ;
 for thow war bettir beir of stone þe barrow,
 of sueitand ding, and delffe quhill thow may dre, 140
 na be machit *witʰ* a wicket marrow.

A fals intent vndir a fare pretence
 hes cawsit mony innocentis to de.
 Grit folly is þairfoir to gife credence
 our sone to all þat speikis fair to the. 145
 a silkin tong, a hairt of crewelte,
 Smytis mair soir than ony schot of arrow.
 Brudir, gif thow be vyis, I rid the fle
 To mache the *witʰ* a frawart fenzeit marrow.

I warne the als, it is grit negligence 150
 To bind þe fast quhair thow was frank & fre ;
 fra thow be bund, thow may mak na defens
 To saif thy lyfe, or ȝit in libertie.³
 This semple counsale, bruder, tak at me,
 and it to cwn *perqueir* se nocht thow tarrow, 155
 Bettir but stryfe to leif allone in le
 Than to be machit *witʰ* a wicket marrow.

¹ See pp. 214, 215.² Cf. pp. 214, 215. Hart, 'fellowes bee.'³ See pp. 216, 217.

BANNATYNE]

This hald in mynd : ȝit moir I sall the tell
 Quhat by þir beistis may be figurat.

F. 331 a. This paddok, vsand in this flud to dwell, 160
 Is *manis* body, *swmand* air and lait
 Into this warld, *witȝ* cairis implicat,
 Now he, now law, quhyle plungit vp and doun,
 Ay in to *perrell*, and redy for to droun.

Now dolorus, now blytȝ as bird on beir ; 165
 Now in fredome, now wardit in distreß ;
 Now haill, now sound, now deid and brocht on beir ;
 Now pure as Iob, now rowand in richeß ;
 Now gowins gay, now brattis to Imbraß ;
 Now full as fysche, now hungry as a hound ; 170
 Now on þe quheill, now wappit to þe ground.

This littill mouß, thus knet hard be þe chin,
 the saule of *man* betakin may indeid¹ ;
 Bundin, and fra þe body may *nocht* twin,
 Quhill crewall deid cum brek of lyfe the threid ; 175
 The quhilk to droun suld evir stand in dreid,
 of carnall lust be þe suggestioun
 quhilk drawis ay þe saule, ay and haldis doun.

The waltir is þe warld, ay walterand
Witȝ mony wayiß of tribulatioun, 180
 In quhilk þe saule and body ay waverand
 standis distinyt in² *þair* opinioun ;
 The spreit vpwart, þe body preisß doun :
 The natur of þe saule wald our be borne
 out of this warld vnto þe hevinly trone. 185

¹ MS. 'in deid.'² MS. 'and.' Cf. p. 219.

[BANNATYNE

This gled is deid, þat cumis suddanly,
 As dois þe theif, and endis this battell.
 be vegeland þairfoir, and ay reddy,
 for manis lyfe is brukle & mortall :
 My freind, þairfoir, mak the a strang castell 190
 of gud deidis ; for deid will the assay,
 Thow wait *nocht* quhen, at evin, morne, nor midday.

Adew, my freind ; and gife þat ony speiris
 of this fable so schortly I conclude,
 Thow say, I left the laif onto þe freiris, 195
 To mak a sample or similitud.
 Now chryst for ws þat deit on the rud,
 of saule and lyf as thow art saluour,
 Grant ws to paß in till a blissit hour.

Explicit : *quod* m̄r. R. H.THE TWA MYSS.¹

F. 331 b. **I** SOP, myne autour, makis mentioun
 of twa myß, and thay war sisteris deir,
 off quhome þe elder dwelt in a borrowis toun,
 The jungir wend vp on land, weill neir,
rycht solitar, quhyle vndir busk and breir,
 quhyle in þe corne, in vþir menis schlecht,
 as outlawis dois and levis on þair wacht.

5

¹ Title in the margin in a later hand.

BANNATYNE]

The rurall mouß in to þe winter tyd
 Had hungir, cauld, and tholit grit distres.
 The toþir mouß þat in þe burgh can byd 10
 Was gilt bruþer and maid ane fre burgeß ;
 Tolefre alswa, but custome mair and leß,
 and fredome had to ga quhair euer scho list,
 Amang the cheiß and meill in ark and kist.

A tyme quhen scho wes full and on fute sair, 15
 Scho tuk in mynd hir sistir vp on land,
 and langit for hir cheir and hir weifair,
 and se quhat lyfe scho led vndir the wand :
 Bairfute, allone, with pyk-staff in hir hand,
 as pure pilgrem scho passit out of toun, 20
 To seik hir sister baith our daill and down.

Throw mony wilsum wayis cwt^h scho walk,
 Throwcht mure and moß, throwcht bank, busk, and brayre,
 fra fur to fur, cryand fra balk to balk,
 'Cum furt^h to me, myne sueit sister deir ; 25
 Cry peip anis !' with þat þe mowß quod heir,
 and knew hir voce, a's kynnis men will do,
 be verry kynd ; and furt^h scho come hir to.

The hairtly cheir, lord god, gife 3e had sene !
 Was kyid quhen þir sisteris twa wer met ; 30
 Quhilk þat oft syiß was schawin þame betwene,
 For quhyle þai luche, and quhyle for Ioy thay gret,
 quhyle kissit sueit, and quhyle in armis plet ;
 and thus thay fure, quhill sobirt wes þair meid,
 Syne fute for fute onto þair chalmer 3eid. 35

[BANNATYNE

As I hard say, it wes a semple wane,
 off fog and farne full maisterlig was maid,
 a silly scheill vndir a erdfast stane,
 F. 332 a. Off quhilk þe entre wes *nocht* he nør braid ;
 and in þe samyn than went but mair abaid, 40
*With*outtin fyre or candill burnand bricht,
 For commonly sic pykeris luvis *nocht* licht.

Quhen thay wer lugit thus, thir silly myß,
 The jungast sister vntill hir burtre hyid,
 Brocht furt^h nuttis and peiß in steid of spyß ; 45
 Gife þair was weifair, doit on thame besyd.
 This burges mouß, prwmmgit¹ full of pryð,
 and said, 'sistir, is this þour daly fude ?'
 'quhy *nocht* ?' *quod* scho, 'think þe this meisß *nocht* gude ?'

'Na, be my saule, me think it bot a skorne.' 50
 'Madame,' *quod* scho, 'þe be the moir to blame ;
 My moder said, eftir þat we wer borne,
 That þe and I lay baith *wit*hin hir wame :
 I keip the ryt and custome of my deme,
 And of my *ßchir*, levand in pouertie, 55
 For landis haif we none of propirtie.'

'My fair sistir,' *quod* scho, 'haif me excusit,
 This rude dyet and I can *nocht* accord ;
 Till tendir meit my stomok ay is wsit,
 For quhy I fair als weil as ony lord ; 60
 Thir widderit peiß and nutis, or þai be bord,
 Will brek my teith, and mak my teith full sklendir,
 quhilk vsit wer befor to metis tendir.'

¹ MS. very indistinct : see pp. 16, 17.

BANNATYNE]

'Weill, weill, sistir,' than *quod* þe rurall mouß,
 'Gife it þow pleiß, sic thing as 3e se heir,
 baith meit and drink, herbery and houß,
 salbe þour awin, will 3e remane all 3eir;
 3e sall it haif *witʰ* blytʰ and hairtly cheir,
 That suld mak the meisß þat ar rude,
 Amang freindis, *rycht* tendir sueit and gude.

65

70

'Quhat plesans is in feistis delicat,
 The quhilk ar gevin *witʰ* a glowmand brow?
 a *gentill* hairt is bettir recreat
Witʰ blytʰ visage than sethe to him a cow:
 A modicum is moir for till allow,
 Sa þat gud will be carver at þe deß,
 Than thrawin vilt and mony spysit meß.'

75

For all this mery exortatioun,
 F. 332 b. This burges mouß had littill will to sing;
 Bot hevely scho kest hir visage down,
 for all hir denteis scho cowntʰ till hir bring.
 3it at þe last scho said, half in hething,
 'Sistir, this wittell and þour ryell feist
 May weill suffyiß for sic a rurall beist.

80

'Lat be this hole, and cum vnto my place;
 I sall þow schaw be gude experience
 My gud fryday is bettir nor þour pase;
 My dische likking is wirth þour haill expens.
 I haif housß anew of grit defenß;
 of cat, na fall, na trap¹ I haif no dreid.'
 'I grant,' *quod* scho, and on togeider² 3eid.

85

90

¹ Cf. pp. 20, 21.² MS. 'to geider.'

[BANNATYNE

In skugry ay, throw rankest girß and corne,
 And wondir sly, full preuely cwt~~h~~ thay creip ;
 The eldest was the gyd and went beforne,
 The 3unger till hir wayis tuke grit keip. 95
 on ny~~ch~~t thay ran, and on þe day can sleip ;
 quhill in a mornyng, or þe laverok sang,
 Thay fand þe toun, and in blyt~~h~~ly cowa~~h~~ gang.

Nocht fer fra thyne on till a worthy wane,
 This burges brocht thame sone quhair thay suld be ; 100
 Wit~~h~~out god speid thair harbery wes tane
 In till a spens wit~~h~~ vitall of grit plentie ;
 bayt~~h~~ cheiße and butter vpone skelffis he,
 Wit~~h~~ fische and flesche ennu~~ch~~e, baith fresch and salt,
 And sekkis full of groitis, baith meill & malt. 105

Eftir quhen þai disposit wer to dyne,
 Wit~~h~~outtin grace thay wesche and went to meit,
 Wit~~h~~ all curis þat cukis can dewyne,
 Motone and beif strikin in telßeis greit ;
 a lordis fair thus can thay counterfeit, 110
 Except a thing, thay drank þe wattir cleir
 In steid of wyne, bot 3it thay maid gud cheir.

Wit~~h~~ blyt~~h~~ vpcast and mery contenans,
 The eldir sistir sperit at hir gest,
 Gife þat scho thocht be ressoun differans 115
 Betuix þat chalmer and hir sary nest.
 '3it deme,' quod scho, 'bot how long will þis lest ?'
 'for evirmoir, I wait, and langir to.'
 'Gif it be trew, 3e ar at eiße,' quod scho.

BANNATYNE]

- Till eik þe cheir the sur[c]harg¹ furt~~h~~ scho brocht, 120
 F. 333 a. A plait of groitis and a dische of meill ;
 Threfe caikis, I trow, scho sparit noch~~t~~
 haboundantly about hir for to deill ;
 furmage full fyne scho brocht in steid of geill ;
 A quhyt candill out of a coffer stall, 125
 In steid of spyce to cresch thair teithis wi~~th~~ all.
- Thus maid thay mirry quhile thay mycht no mair,
 And, 'haill zule, haill !' thay cryit vp on he.
 Bot eftir Ioy oftymis cumis cair,
 And truble eftir gret prosperite. 130
 Thus as thay sat in all þair iolite,²
 The spens come in wi~~th~~ keis in his hand,
 Oppinit the dur, and thame at denner fand.
- Thay tareit noch~~t~~ to wesche, as I suppoisþ,
 bot on to go quha mycht formest win. 135
 The burges had a hoill, and in scho gois ;
 hir sistir had no place to hyd hir in :
 To se þat silly mouß it wes grit syn,
 To dussalait and will of all gud reid ;
 For verry dreid scho fell in swoun neir deid. 140
- Bot as god wald, it fell a happy caisþ :
 The spensar had no laisar for to byd,
 Nowdir to serþ, to seik, nor char, no[r] chaisþ,
 Bot on he went, and kest the dur vp wyd.
 This [bald³] burges his passage weill hes spyd ; 145
 Out of hir hoill scho come and cryit on he,
 'how fair sistir? cry peip, quhair evir thow be !'

¹ Cf. pp. 22, 23.² MS. 'solite.'³ See pp. 24, 25, 324.

[BANNATYNE

This rurall mouß lay flatlingis on þe ground,
 And for the deid scho wes full [sair ¹] dreidand,
 For till her hairt straik mony wofull stound, 150
 As in a fewer trymlit fute and hand;
 And quhan hir sistir in sic plyt hir fand,
 For very pety scho began to greit,
 Syne confortit hir wíth wírdis as huny sueit.

‘Quhy ly 3e thus? ryß vp my sistir deir, 155
 cum till 3our meit, this perrell is ourpast.’
 The toþir anßuerit wíth a hevy cheir,
 ‘I may noch eit, so soir I am agast;
 I had levir thir fourty dayis fast,
 Wíth wattir caill, or gnaw benis or peiß, 160
 Than all 3our feist in þis dred & diseiß.’

F. 333^b. With fair trety 3it gart scho hir ² ryß;
 To burd thay went and on togidder sat;
 And skantly had thay drunken anis or twyß,
 quhen in come ³ gib huntar, our Ioly cat, 165
 and bad god speid: the burges vp wíth that,
 and till hir ⁴ hoill scho fled as fyre of flynt:
 Bawdronis þe toþir be the bak scho ⁵ hint.

Fra fute to fute scho ⁵ kest hir to and fra,
 quhyle vp, quhyle down, als tait as ony kid; 170
 quhyle wald scho ⁵ lat hir ryn vndir the stra,
 quhyle wald scho ⁵ wynk and play wíth hir bukhid.
 Thus to þe silly mouß grit harme scho did,
 quhyle at þe last, throw fair fortoun and hap,
 Betuix þe dressour and the wall scho crap. 175

¹ Cf. pp. 24, 25, 324.² MS. ‘him.’³ MS. ‘income.’⁴ MS. ‘his.’⁵ Cf. pp. 26, 27, and p. 290, l. 179.

BANNATYNE]

Syne vp in haist behind þe *per*raling
 So he scho clam, þat gilbert mycht *nocht* get hir,
 and be the clukis craftely *can* hing,
 Till he wes gone, hir cheir wes all þe bettir.
 Syne doun scho lap quhen þair wes nane to let hir; 180
 Than on þe burges mowß lowd cowt~~h~~ scho cry,
 'Fair weill, sistir, heir I thy feist defy.

'Thy mangery is myngit all *wit*h cair,
 Thy guß is gud, thy ganesall sour as gall;
 The subcharge¹ of thy *ß*irvice is bot sair; 185
 So sall thow find heirestirwart may fall.
 I thank þone courtyne and þone parpane wall
 of my defens now fra þone crewell beist.
 almichty god keip me fra sic a feist !

'War I in to þe place þat [I] come fro, 190
 For weill nor wo I suld nevir cum agane.'
*Wit*h þat scho tuke hir leif and furt~~h~~ can go,
 quhyle throw þe corne, & quhylis throw þe plane;
 Quhen scho was furt~~h~~ and fre, scho was *rycht* fane,
 and *mir*rely *mer*kit vnto þe mvre: 195
 I *can* *nocht* tell how estirwart scho fure.

Bot I hard say scho passit to hir den,
 als warme as wow, suppoiß it wes *nocht* greit,
 Full beynly stuf, bayth but and ben,
 F. 334^a. Off peiß, and nutis, benis, ry, and quheit; 200
 Quhen evir scho list scho had *ez*nuche till eit,
 In quiet and eiß, *wit*houttin dreid;
 Bot till hir sisteris feist no moir scho þeid.

¹ MS. ? 'sachngis,' or ? 'fach[i]ngis.' But cf. pp. 26, 27; also p. 325.

[BANNATYNE

MORALITAS.

FREINDIS, heir may 3e find, will 3e tak heid,
 In this fable a gud moralitie ; 205

as fischis myngit ar *wit*h noble seid,
 So intermellit is aduersitie
*Wit*h erdly ioy ; so þat no stait is fre
*With*out truble or sum vexatioun ;
 and namely thay that clymis vp most he, 210
 and *nocht* content of small possessioun.

Blissit be symple lyfe *with*outtin dreid,
 Blissit be sobir feist in quiete ;
 quha hes *ennuche*, of no moir hes he neid,
 Thocht it be littill in to quantete. 215

Grit haboundance and blind prosperite
 oft tymis makis ane evill conclusioun ;
 The suetest lyfe, þairfoir, in þis cuntre
 Is of sickernes, *wit*h small possessioun.

O wantoun man ! quhilk vsis for to feid 220

Thy wame, and makis it a god to be,
 Luke to þi self ; I warne the weill on deid,
 The cat *cumis*, and to þe mouß hewis E :

Quhat dois awaill thy feist and rylte,
*Wit*h dreidfull hairt and tribulatioun ? 225

Thairfoir best thing in erd, I say, for me,
 Is mirry hairt, *wit*h small possessioun.

Thy awin fyre, freind, thocht it be bot a gleid,
 It warmis weill, and is worth gold to the ;
 And salamone sayis, and 3e will reid, 230

‘Vndir þe hevin I can *nocht* bettir se
 Than ay be blyth and leif in honeste.’

Quhairfoir I may conclud be this ressoun :
 Off erdly Ioy it beiris most degre,
 Blythness in hairt, *wit*h small possessioun. 235

Explicit : *quod* m̃. R. H.

BANNATYNE]

THE DOG þE SCHEIP & þE WOLFF.¹

ISOPE a taill putis in memorie,
 How þat a dog, becauþ þat he wes pure,
 F. 334 b. Callit a scheip vnto þe consistory,
 a certane breid of him for to recure.
 a frawdfull [wolf] was Iuge þat tyme, and bure 5
 auctoritie and Iurisdiction,
 and on þe scheip send furt^h a strait summoun.

For by þe vse, and courþ, of commoun style
 on this maner maid his sitatioun :

‘I, maister wolf, pairtles of frawd or gyle, 10
 Vndir þe panis of suspentioun,
 and gret cursing, and interdiction,
 Schir scheip, I chaarge þe straitly to compeir,
 and ansueir till a dog befor me heir.’

Schir corby rawin was maid aperitour,² 15
 quhilk pyket hes full mony schepis E;
 his chaarge hes tane, and on the lettir bure;
 Sommond the scheip befor þe wolf, þat he
 peremptourly, withⁱn the dayis thre,
 Compeir vndir the panis in this bill, 20
 And heir quhat burry dog wald say him till.

¹ Title in the margin in a later hand.² MS. ‘a peritour.’

[BANNATYNE

This *sommond* maid befor witneß *ennew*,
 The revin has till his office weill affeird,
 endorsit hes his writ, and on he flew ;
 The silly scheip durst lay no mowth till erd, 25
 Till scho befor þat awfull iuge apperd,
 be hour of caufß, quhilk þat court vsit thane,
 Quhen *esperus* to schaw his face began.

The fox wes clerk and notar in þat caufß ;
 The gled, the grip, vp at þe bar cowth stand ; 30
 as *aduocatis* expert in to the lawis,
 The doigis ply togiddir tuk on hand,
 quhilk wer confiderit stret in to ane band,
 Agane the scheip to procure the sentens ;
 Thocht it wer fals, thay haif no *conscience*. 35

The clerk callit the scheip, and he wes thair ;
 The *aduocattis* on this wyß *can* propone :
 ‘ A certane breid, worth fyve schillingis and mair,
 Thow aw this dog, [of] quhilk the terme is gone.’

F. 335 *a*. Of his ¹ awin heid, but *aduocat*, allone, 40
 Awysitly gaif anßuer in that caiß :
 ‘ heir I declyne the iuge, the tyme, and place.

‘ This is my caus and motive in effect ;
 The law sayis, it is *rycht* perelouß
 Till *interply* befor a iuge suspect ; 45
 and thow, *schir* wolf, hes ay bene odius
 To me ; *wit* thyne tuskis revenus
 hes slane full mony *kynnismen* of myne ;
 Thairfoir, as iuge suspect, I the declyne.

¹ MS. ‘hir.’

BANNATYNE]

'And schortly, of this court the *memberis* all, 50
 bayth *assessouris*, clerke, and aduocat,
 To me and myne ar *enemeis* immortal,
 and ay hes bene, as mony scheiphird watt ;
 This place, as for the tyme, is feriat,
 In quhilk no iugeis suld sit in *consistory*, 55
 So lait at evin, I 3ow accuß for thy.'

Quhen þat þe iuge on this wyse wes accusit,
 he bad the *pairteis* cheiße, *wit*h one assent,
 Twa *arbitouris*, as in the law is vsit,
 For to dissyd and gife arbitrement, 60
 quhiddir the scheip suld byd in iugement
 Befoir the wolf ; and swa thay did but weir,
 of quhome þe names eftir 3e sall heir.

The beir, the brok, this mater tuk on hand,
 For to dissyd gife this exceptioun 65
 Wes of na strenth, or lawchfully mycht stand ;
 And þairvpoun, as iugeis thay sat down,
 And held a lang quhyle disputatioun,
 Seikand full mony decretalis of the law,
 And glosis als, þe veritie to know. 70

Of sewall ¹ mony volum thay rewoll,
 The codyße and degestis new and ald ;
 prowē and contra, strait argument thay resoll,
 Sum a doctryne, and sum a *noþer* ² hald ;
 For pryße, nor prayer, trow 3e thay wald fald ? 75
 F. 335 ^b. Bot held þe text and gloiße of the decreiße,
 as trew iugeis ; I schrew þame þat leiße.

¹ Cf. pp. 90, 91.² MS. 'moþer.'

[BANNATYNE

Schortly to mak ane end of this debait,
 The arbitrou^{is} summar and plane
 The sentens gaif, and procesß fulminat : 80
 The scheip suld paß befoir þe wolf agane
 And end his pleid : than was he no thing fane,
 For fra þair sentens he mycht no wayiß appeill.
 on clerkis doid, gife this sentence be leill.

The scheip agane befoir þe wolf derenzzeit, 85
 but advocat, abasitly can stand.
 Vpraiß the dog, and on the scheip thus plenzzeit :
 'To the a sowme I payit befoir hand
 For certane breid ;' thairto a borch he¹ fand,
 That wrangusly the scheip held fra him breid ; 90
 And he denyit ; and so began the pleid.

Thus quhen the scheip this stryfe had contestat,
 The Iugeis into þe cauß furt^h cowt^h proceid ;
 Lawrence the actis and proces wrait,
 And sone the ply vnto þe end thay speid. 95
 This cursit court, corruptit all for meid,
 Agane gud fayt^h, gud law and conscience,
 For this fals dog pronuncit the sentence.

And it to put in executioun,
 The wolf chairgeit þe scheip, without delay, 100
 Vndir þe pane of interdiction,
 The sowme of siluer, or the breid, to pay.
 Off this sentens, allaiß, quhat sall we say,
 quhilk dampnit hes the silly innocent,
 and institut to wrangus iugement ? 105

BANNATYNE]

The scheip, dreidand moir *persecutioun*,
 obeyit the sentence, and cowth tak
 his way vntill a *merchand* in þe toun,
 And sald his fleiß þat he bur on his bak ;
 Syne bocht the breid, and to þe dog *can* mak 110
 reddy payment, as he *foiriugeit* waß ;
 Nakit and bair syne to þe feild *cowth* paß.

MORALITAS.

F. 336 a. **T**HIS silly scheip may present the figure
 of pure *commownis*, þat daylie ar opprest
 Be *tirrane men*, þat settis all þair cure 115
 With fals menys to mak a wrang *conqueist*,
 In howp this *present* lyfe sall evir lest ;
 Bot all begyld thay will in schort tyme end,
 And eftir deid to crewall panis wend.

This wolf I likin vnto a ßiref stout, 120
 quhilk byis a forfalt at the kingis hand,
 And hes *with* him a cursit assyis about,
 And dytis all þe pure *men* vp of land,
 And fra þe *crowner* lay on thame his wand,
 Suppois he be als trew as was sanct Iohine, 125
 Slane sall thay be, or *with* the iuge *compone*.

This revin I likin till a fals crownar,
 quhilk hes a porteouß of the endytment,
 And pasß furt*h* befor the iustice air,
 All misdoaris to bring till Iugement ; 130
 Bot luke gife he be of a trew intent,
 To skraip out Iohine, and wryt in will, or wate,
 and so a bud at bayt*h* þe *pairteis* skat.

[BANNATYNE

Off this fals tod, becauð I spak befoir,
 And of this gled, quhat thay mycht signify, 135
 Off þair natur, as now I speik no moir ;
 Bot of the scheip and of his cairfull cry
 I sall reherß ; for as I passit by
 quhair þat he lay, on caiß he lukit down,
 and hard him mak this lamentatioun : 140

‘ Allace,’ *quod* he, ‘ this cursit consistory,
 In middis now of wintir it is maid,
 quhen boreas, *wit* blastis bittirly,
Wit frawart frostis, the flouris down can faid ;
 On bankis bair now may I mak no baid.’ 145
 And *wit* þat wurd in till a coif he crap,
 fra hair weddir and frostis him to hap.

Quakand for cald, and *murnyngis* soir amang,
 Kest vp his ene vnto þe hevinis hicht,
 F. 336 b. And said : ‘ o lord, quhy slypis thow so lang ? 150
 Walk, and descerne my cauß, groundit in richt :
 Luk how I am, be frawd, maistry, and *slycht*,
 pelit full bair : ’ and so is mony one
 Now in this warld, *rycht* wondir, wo begone.

Se how þe cursit syn of cuvatyß, 155
 Exylit hes bayth lufe, lawty, and law.
 Now few or nane will execute iustice,
 In falt of quhome the pure man is ourthraw.
 The verity, albeid þe iuge knaw,
 Thay¹ ar so blindit *wit* affectioun, 160
 But dreid, for meid, thay thoill þe *rycht* go down.

¹ Cf. pp. 96, 97.

BANNATYNE]

Se thow *nocht*, lord, this warld ourturnit is,
 As quha wald chenge gud gold in leid or tyn ;
 The pure is pelit ; the lord may do no miß ;
 Now symony is haldin for no syn ; 165
 Now is he blyth *wit* okir can most wyn ;
 Gentreis is slane, and pety is ago ;
 allace ! lord god, quhy tholis thow it so ?

Thow tholis this, bot for our grit offens
 Thow sendis ws truble and plaigis soir, 170
 As hungir, derth, wer, and pestilens ;
 bot few amendis þair lyfe now þairfoir.
 We pure peple, as now may do no moir
 Bot pray to the, sen we ar thus opprest
 in to þis erd, Grant ws in hevin gud rest. 175

Explicit : *quod* m̃. R. H.THE WOLFF & þE LAMB.¹

A CREWALL wolf, revanus and fell,
 Vpone a tyme past till a revere
 Descending fra a roch out of a well,
 To slaik his thirst, drank of þe watter cleir.
 Sa vpone caiß a silly lame come neir, 5
 Bot of this wolf the lame no thing he wist,
 and in the streme lapit to cule his thirst.

¹ Title in the margin in a later hand.

[BANNATYNE

Thus drang thay baith, bot *nocht* of ane intent ;
 The wolffis *thocht* wes all in wicketneß ;
 The silly lame meik and innocent : 10
 Vpone þe reuir by in ane vdir place,
 beneth þe wolf, he drank in ane littill space,
 F. 337 a. Quhill him *thocht* gude, presomyng þair none ill ;
 The wolf this saw, and *rampand* come him till

With girnand teith and angry austre luke, 15
 said to þe lamb : ‘ thow catyve wrechit thing,
 how durst thow be so bald to fyle this bruke,¹
 quhair I suld drink, *with* thy fowll slauring ?
 It wer almouß the for till draw and hing,
 That suld presome, *with* stinkand lippis will, 20
 To hurt my drink, and this fair watter spill.’

The silly lamb, quakand for verry dreid,
 on kneis fell, and said : ‘ *ßchir*, *with* 3our leif,
 Suppoiß I dar *nocht* say þairof 3e leid ;
 Bot, be my saule, I wait 3e *can* *nocht* preife 25
 That I did ony thing quhilk suld 3ow greif ;
 3e wait also 3our accusatioun
 fel3eis fra trewt^h, and contrair till ressoun.

‘ *Thocht* I *can* *nocht*, nature will me defend,
 And of the deid perfytt experience ; 30
 all hevie² thing mone of the self discend ;
 Bot gif sum thing on forß mak resistance,
 Thane may þe streme be na wayis mak offens,
 Na ryn bakwart : I drank beneth 3ow far ;
 Ergo, for me 3our drink is nevir þe war. 35

¹ Cf. pp. 194, 195.² MS. ‘hevinly.’

BANNATYNE]

‘Also my lippis, sen þat I was a lame,
Twichit no thing þat was contagius ;
Bot sowkit mylk fra pawpis of my dame,
rycht naturall, sueit, and deliciouß.’

‘Weill,’ *quod* þe wolf, ‘thy langage outragius 40
Cumis of kynd ; sa þour fader befoir
held me at bait als *wit*h bost and schoir.

‘He wexit me, and than I cowl him warne
*Wit*hin a þeir, and I brukit my heid,
I suld be wrokin on him, or on his bairne, 45
for his exorbitant and thrawart pleid ;
Thow sall doutles for his deidis be deid.’
‘*Schir*, it is wrang, þat for þe faderis gilt
The saikles sone sall pvneist be and spilt.

‘Haif þe noch hard quhat haly scriptour sais, 50
F. 337 b. Dytit *wit*h þe mowth of god almycht ?
off his awin deid ilk man salbeir the paiff,¹
as pyne for syn, reward for werkis rycht ;
For my trespass quhy suld my sone haif plycht ?
Quha did þe miß lat thame sustene þe pane.’ 55
‘*Ja*,’ *quod* the wolf, ‘þit plyis thow agane ?

‘I latt þe wit, quhen þe fader offerdis,
[I] will cheriß none of his successioun ;
and of his bairnis may weill be tane amendis,
Vnto þe nynt degree descending down. 60
The fadir thocht to mak a strang pvsoun,
And *wit*h his mowth in to my wattir spew.’
‘*Schir*,’ *quod* þe lamb, ‘tha twa ar nowþir trew.

¹ Cf. pp. 196, 197.

[BANNATYNE]

'The law sayis, and ȝe will vndirstand,
 Thair suld no man, for wrang no[r] violens, 65
 his aduersar puneis at his awin hand,
 Without proces of law in audiens;
 Quhilk suld haif leif to mak lawchfull defens,
 and pairvpone summond peremptourly,
 for to propone and contra and reply. 70

'Set me a lawfull court, I sall compeir
 befor þe lyone, lord and leill iustys,
 and, be my hand, I obliß me rycht heir,
 That I sall byd ane vnsuspect assyß.
 This is þe way, þis is þe iustest wyß; 75
 ȝe suld proceed pairfoir; a summond's mak
 agane þat day, to gif ressoun and tak.'

'Ha!' *quod* þe wolf, 'wald thow intruß ressoun,
 quhair wrang and reif suld dwell in properte?
 That is a poynt of oppin fals tressoun, 80
 For to gar rewth remane *wit* crewelte.
 Be goddis wondis, fals tratour, thow sall de,
 for thy trespas, and for thy faderis als.'
Wit þat annone he hint him be þe hals.

The silly lame *mycht* do no thing bot blait; 85
 Sone wes he hedit; þe wolf wald do no grace,
 Syne drank his blud, and of his flesch *can* eit,
 Till he wes fow, syne went away apace.
 off þis murthour quhat sall I say, allace?
 F. 338a. was this no rewth, was this *nocht* grit pete, 90
 To heir¹ this silly lame but gilt thuß de?

¹ Cf. pp. 200, 201.

BANNATYNE]

MORALITAS. The pure peple this lamb may signify,
 As malemen, merchandis, and pure lauboreris,
 off quhome þe lyfe is half a purgatory,
 To wyn *wit* lawty leving as effeiris. 95
 The wolf betakynis fals extorceneiris,
 and oppressouris of pure men, as we se,
 be violens, be craft, or sutelte.

Thre kynd of wolffis in þe warld now ringis :
 The first ar fals *pervertaris* of þe lawis, 100
 Quhilk vndir poleit *termes* falset myngis,
 Leitand þat all wer gospels that thay schawis ;
 Bot for a bud the trew men he ourthrawis,
 Smorand þe *rycht*, garrand þe wrang proceid :
 Off sic wolffis hell fyre salbe þair meid. 105

¹ Ane vpir kynd of wolffis revanus
 ar mychty men, haifand *anwch* plente,
 quhilk ar so gredy and so cowetuß,
 Thay will *nocht* thoill in *pēax* ane pure man be ;
 Suppois þat he and his houshald suld de 110
 for falt of fude, þairof thay gif no rak,
 Bot our his heid his maling thay will tak.

O man ! but *mercy*, quhat is in thy thoct,
 War than a wolf, and thow cowth vndirstand ?
 Thow hes *anwch* ; the pure husband hes *nocht* 115
 bot cote and cruse vpone a clout of land.
 for godis aw, how dar thow tak on hand,
 and thow in berne and byre so bene and big,
 To put him fra his tak and gar him thig ?

¹ The order of the third, fourth, and fifth stanzas of the 'Moralitas' differs from that in the Charteris and Harleian texts. See pp. 200-203.

[BANNATYNE

O man of law ! lat be thy sutelte, 120
*Wit*h nyß iympis and frawd is interkat,
 And think þat god of his diuinite
 The wrang, the *rycht* of all thy werkis wate :
 For preyer, pryce, for he no[r] law estait,
 of fals querrell se thow mak no defenß ; 125
 Hald *wit*h the *rycht*, hurt *nocht* thy conscience.

The thrid wolf is men of heretege,
 F. 338 b. As lordis þat hes landis be godis lane,
 And settis to þe maillairis a willage,
 For prayer, pryce, and the gersum tane ; 130
 Syne vexis him, or half the terme be gane,
*Wit*h pykit querrellis, for to mak him fane
 To flitt, or pay the girsum new agane.

His horß, his meir, he mone *len* to þe laird,
 To drug and draw in cairt and cariege ; 135
 his *ßirvand* or him self may *nocht* be spard
 To swynk or sueit, *wit*houttin meit or wage.
 Lo as he standis in lawbour and boundage,
 That skantly may he purchesß by his maill,
 To leif vpone dry breid and wattir kaill. 140

Hes thow no *rewth* to gar thy tennent sueit
 In to þi lawbour, full faynt *wit*h hungry wame,
 And syne hes littill gude to drink or eit,
 or his *menze* at evin quhen he *cumis* hame?
 Thow suld be rad for *rychtous* godis blame ; 145
 For it cryis vengeance to þe hevin so he,
 To gar a pure man wirk but meit or fe.

BANNATYNE]

O thow grit lord, þat hes riches and rent,
 Be *nocht* a wolf, thus to devoir þe pure ;
 Think þat no thing crewall nor violent 150
 May in this warld perpetually indure :
 This is a sentens suth I 3ow assure,
 For till oppreß thow sall haif als grit pane
 as thow the pure anis *witʰ* thy hand had slane.

GOD keip þe lame, þat is the innocent 155
 Fra wolffis byt, I mene extorceneiris ;
 God grant þat wrangus men of fals intent
 Be manifest, and pvneist as effeiris.
 And god, as thow all rychtous prayer heiris,
 mot saif our king, and gif him hairt and hand 160
 all sic wolffis to beʒneiß of this land.

Explicit : *quod m̃r. R. H.*

THE LYON & THE MOUSS.¹

IN myddis of Iune, þat ioly sueit sessoun,
 Quhen þat fair phebus with his bemis brycht
 F. 339 a. Had dryit vp þe dew fra daill and down,
 And all the land maid *witʰ* his lemys lycht ;
 In a mornyng, betuix midday and nycht, 5
 I raiß and put all slewth and sleip on syd ;
 Ontill a wod I went allone but gyd.

¹ Title in the margin in a later hand.

[BANNATYNE

Sueit wes the smell of *flouris* quhyt and reid,
 The noyis of birdis *rycht* delicious,
 The bewis bred blwmyt abone my heid, 10
 The grund growand *witȝ* grefȝ gratius ;
 Off all plesans that place wes plenteus,
Witȝ sueit odour and birdis armony,
 The mornyng myld : my mirth wes mair for thy.

The roisȝ reid arayit rone and ryȝ, 15
 The prumroȝ and the purpour viola ;
 To heir it was a poynt of paradyȝ,
 Sic myrth the maviȝ and the merle cowntȝ ma.
 The blossummis blytȝ brak vp on bank and bra,
 The smell of herbis and of fowlis cry 20
 Contending quha suld haif þe victory.

Me to conserf than fra the sonis heit,
 Vndir the schaddow of an awthorne grene,
 I lenyt down amangis the flouris sueit,
 Syne maid a corȝ, and closit baith myne ene. 25
 On sleip I fell amang the bewis bene,
 And in my dreme me thoȝt come throw þe schaw
 The fairest man befoir þat evir I saw.

His gown wes of a claitȝ als quhyt as mylk ;
 His chymmeris wer of chamelet purpour broun ; 30
 His hude of skarlet, bordowrit *witȝ* silk,
 In hekle wyȝ vntill his girdill down ;
 His bonat round wes of þe auld fassoun ;
 His heid was quhyt ; his ene wes grene and gray,
Witȝ lokar hair quhilk our his schulderis lay. 35

BANNATYNE]

A row of paper in his hand he bair ;
 A swannis pen stickand vndir his eir ;
 Ane ynkhorne, *wit*h a pretty gilt pennair,
 A bag of silk, all at his belt he weir :
 Thus wes he gudly grathit in his geir. 40
 Of stature lerge, and *wit*h a feirfull face :
 Evin quhair I lay he come a sturdy pace,

F. 339 b. And said, 'god speid my sone ;' and I wes fane
 off þat cowth word, and of his *cum*pany ;
*Wit*h reuerence I salust him agane, 45
 'Welcum, fader ;' and he sat doun me by.
 'Displeið þow *nocht*, my gud maist*ir*, *thocht* I
 Demand þour birth, þour faculty, and name,
 quhy þe come heir, or quhair þe dwell at hame.'

'My sone,' said he, 'I am of gentill blude ; 50
 My natall land is rome *wit*h*ow*ttin nay ;
 And in þat toun first to þe scoull*is* þude,
 And science studeit mony a day ;
 And now my winnyng is in hevin for ay :
 Isope I hecht ; my wrytin and my werk 55
 Is cowth and kend to mony *cunn*and clerk.'

'O maist*ir* ysop, poet lawreat,
 God wait, þe ar full deir welcum to me ;
 ar þe *nocht* he þat all thir fabill*is* wrate,
 quhilk in effect, suppois þay fenzeit be, 60
 ar full of prowdens and moralite ?'
 'Fair sone,' said he, 'I am þat samyne man.'
 God wait, gif þat my hairt wes mirry than.

[BANNATYNE

I said, 'Isop, my maister venerable,
 I ȝow beseik hairty for cherite, 65
 ȝe wald dedene to tell a pretty feble,
 concludand *witȝ* a gud moralitie.'
 schakand his heid, he said, 'my sone, lat be,
 for quhat is worth to tell a fenȝeit taill,
 quhen haill preching may nothing now awaill?' 70

'Now in this warld, me think, *rycht* few or nane
 Till godis word þat hes deuotioun;
 The eir is deiff, the hairt is hard as stane,
 Now oppin syn *witȝout* correctioun,
 The E inclynand to þe erd ay doun; 75
 Swa rowstit is þe warld *witȝ* kanker blak,
 That my taillis may littill succour mak.'

'Ȝit, *gentill ſchir*,' said I, 'for my requeist,
nocht till displeiſ ȝour fadirheid, I pray,
 vndir þe figure of sum brutall beist, 80
 a morall fable ȝe wald dedene to say :

F. 340a. Quha wate nor I may leir and beir away
 Sum thing þairby heireftir may awaill?'
 'I grant,' *quod* he, and thus begowtȝ a taill.

A LYONE AT HIS pray wery for ron, 85
 To recreat his *lymis* and to rest,
 Bekand his breist and belly at þe son,
 Vndir a tre lay in þe fair forrest;
 Sua come a trip of myſ out of þair nest,
Rycht tait and trig, all dansand in a gyſ, 90
 and our þe lyone lansir twyſ or thryſ.

BANNATYNE]

He lay so still, þe myß wes *nocht* afferd,
 bot to and fra attour him tuke þair traiß ;
 Sum tirlyt at þe campis of his berd,
 Sum sparit *nocht* to claw him on þe faiß ; 95
 myrry and glaid thus dansit thay a spaiß,
 quhill at þe last þe noble lyoun wouk,
 and *wit* his pow þe maister mowß he tuke.

Scho gaif a cry, and all þe laif agast
 their dansing left, and hid þame heir & thair ; 100
 Scho þat wes tane cryit and weipit fast,
 and said, 'allaiß ! for now and evir mair,
 Now am I tane a wofull presonair,
 and for my gilt trestis *incontinent*
 of lyfe and deth to thoill þe iugement.' 105

Thane spak þe lyone to þat cairfull mouß :
 'Thow catyve wreche, and wyle vnworthy thing,
 Our malapart and our presumpteuus
 Thow was, to mak our me thyne tripping.
 Knew thow *nocht* weill I wes baith lord and king 110
 of all beistis?' 'ʒis,' *quod* þe mouß, 'I knaw ;
 Bot I misknew, becauß ʒe lay so law.

'Lord ! I beseik thy kingly ryalte,
 heir quhat I say, and tak in *patience* ;
 Considdir first my semple pouerte, 115
 and syne thy mighty he *magnificens* ;
 Se als how¹ thingis done by negligence,
Nocht of malyß nor of promissioun,
 ever suld haif grace and remissioun.

¹ MS. 'fow.'

[BANNATYNE

'We wer repleit and had grit haboundaunce 120

off alkyn fude, sic as till ws affeird ;

The sueit sessoun prowokit ws to dans,
and mak sic mirth as nature to ws leird.

F. 340 b. 3e lay so still and law vpone þe erd

That, be my saule, we wend 3e had bene deid, 125

ellis wald we nochit dansit our 3our heid.'

'Thy fals excuþ, ' the lyoun said agane,

'Sall nochit awaill a myt, I vndirta ;

I put þe caiþ, I had bene deid or slane,
and syne my skin bene stoppit full of stra, 130

Thocht thow had fund my figour lyand swa,

Becaus it bair þe prent of my persoun,

Thow suld for dreid on kneis haif fallin doun.

'For thy trespas thow can mak na defens,

my noble persoun thus to vilipend ; 135

of thy fe[i]rþ, nor thyne awin negligens,

for till excuþ, thow can no cauþ pretend ;

Thairfoir thow suffer sall a schamefull end,

and deid, sic as to tressoun is decryit,

Onto the gallowþ hangit be þe feit.' 140

'A mercy ! lord, at thy gentrice I aþ,

as thow art king of beistis coronat,

Sobir thy wreth and lat þi yre ourpaþ,

and mak thy mynd to mercy inclinat.

I grant offens is done to thyne estait, 145

Thairfoir I wirdy am to suffer deid,

Bot gife thy kingly mercy reik remeid.

BANNATYNE]

' In every iuge *mercy* and *rewth* suld be
 as *assessouris*, and collaterall ;
 Without *mercy* iustice is crewelte, 150
 as said is in þe lawis spirituall :
 quhen rigour sittis in þe tribunall,
 The equety of law quha may sustene ?
rycht few or nane, bot *mercy* go betuene.

' Also 3e knaw þe honor trivmphall 155
 Off all wictor vpone þe strenth dependis
 Of his compeir, quhilk manly in battell
 Throw iuperdy of armes lang defendis.
 Quhat *price* or lowing, quhen þe battell endis,
 Is said of him þat ourcumis a man, 160
 Him to defend þat nowdir may no[r] can ?

' A thowsand myß to keill, and eik devoir,
 Is littill manheid vntill a strong lyoun ;
 F. 341 a. Full littill wirschep haif 3e won þairfoir,
 To quhois strenth is no comparesoun : 165
 It will degraid sum *pairte* of 3our renoun
 Till slay a mowß, quhilk may mak no defens,
 Bot askand *mercy* at 3our excellens.

' Also it semys [nocht] to 3our celcitud,
 quhilk vsis daylie meitis delicius, 170
 To fyle 3our teith or lippis *with* my blude,
 quhilk to 3our stomok is *contagius* :
 Vnhelsum meit is of a sary mouß,
 And namely till a noble strang lyoun,
 Wont to be fed *with* gentill venysoun. 175

[BANNATYNE

'My lyfe is littill and my deid far leß,
 3it and I leif, I may, perauentour,
 Supple 3our hienes, leand in distreß ;
 for oft is sene a small man of stature
 reskewit hes a lord of his ¹ honour, 180
 Keipit þat was in poynt to be ourthrawin
 Throw misfortoun : sic caifß may be 3our awin.'

Quhen þis wes said, the lyone his langege
 pasit, and thocht accordit till ressoun,
 and gart mercy his crewell yre assuege, 185
 and to þe mouß grantit remissioun ;
 oppynnit his pow, and scho on kneis fell down,
 and baith hir handis vnto þe hevin vpheld,
 Cryand, 'almychty god mot 3ow 3eld !'

Quhen scho wes gone, the lyone 3eid to hunt, 190
 for he had noch, bot leuit on his pray,
 and slew baith tame and wyld, as he wes wunt,
 and in þe cuntre maid a grit dirray ;
 Till at þe last þe peple fand þe way
 This crewall lyone how þat thay micht him tak : 195
 Off hempin coirdis strang nettis cowl they mak.

And in a rod, quhair he wes wont to rin,
 With rapis rude fra tre to tre it band ;
 Syne kest a raing on raw the wod with in,
 With hornis blast, and canettis fast calland. 200
 The lyone fled, and, throw þe rone rynnand,
 fell in þe net, and hankit fute and heid ;
 for all his strenth he cowl mak no remeid.

¹ See pp. 110, 111.

BANNATYNE]

Voluand about *wit* hiddouß rowmissing,
 F. 341 b. Quhyle to, quhyle fro, gif he *mycht* succour get ; 205
 Bot all in vane, þat velzeit him no thing ;
 The moir he flang the fastir wes he knet¹ ;
 The rapis rude was so about him plet,
 On every syd, þat succour saw he non ;
 Bot still lyand thus murnand maid his mone. 210

‘ O lamit lyoun, liggand heir so law,
 quhair is the *mycht* of thy magnificens,
 Off quhome all brutall beist in erd stud aw,
 and dred to luke vnto thy grit excellens ?
 But howp or help, but succour or defens, 215
 In bandis strong heir mone I byd, allace !
 Till I be slane, I se non vþir grace.

‘ Thair is no ioy þat will my harmis wraik,
 Nor creatur do confort to my croun.
 Quhay sall me bute ? quhay sall thir bandis breik ? 220
 Quha sall me put fra pane of this presoun ?
 Be he had maid his lamentatioun,
 Throw avintur the littill mowß come neir,
 and of the lyone hard, the petows beir.

And suddanly it come in till hir mynd 225
 þat it suld be the lyone did hir grace,
 and said, ‘ now wer I fals and *rycht* vnkynd,
 Bot gife I quit sumpairte thy gentilnes
 thow did to me : ’ and on *wit* þat scho gais
 till hir fallowis, and on thame fast *can* cry, 230
 ‘ Cum help, cum help ! ’ and thay come on in hy.

¹ Cf. pp. 112, 113.

[BANNATYNE

‘Lo!’ *quod* the mouß, ‘this is þe same lyone
 quhilk gave me grace quhen þat ¹ I wes tane;
 and now is fast heir bundin in presone,
 Wrekand his hurt *witʰ* sair murnyng and mane; 235
 Bot we him help, of supple wait þe nane;
 Cum help to quyt a gud turne for a noþir,
 Go, lowß him sone.’ And thay said, ‘Ȝe, gud bruþir.’

Thay tuke no knyfe, thair teith wes scherp *ennwch*.
 To se þat sicht, forsuth it wes grit wondir, 240
 how þat thay *ran* amangis þe raipis twche,
 Befoir, behind, sum Ȝeid abone, sum vndir,
 and schure þe raipis of the mastis in schwndir;
 Syne bad him ryß; and he stert vp *annone*,
 And thankit thame; syne on his wayis is gone. 245

F. 342 a. Now is the lyone fre of all dengeir,
 Lowß and deliuerit till his libertie,
 Be littill beistis of small poweir,
 as Ȝe haif hard, becaus he had pete.
quod I, ‘maister, is thair a moralite 250
 In þis fable?’ ‘Ȝa, sone,’ said he, ‘rycht gude.’—
 ‘I pray Ȝow, *schir*,’ *quod* I, ‘Ȝe wald conclud.’

MORALITAS.

AS I suppoiß, this mychty gay lyoun
 may signify a prince, or empriour,
 a potestat, or ȝit a king *witʰ* croun, 255
 quhilk suld be walkryfe gyd and gournour
 of his peple, and takis no lawbour
 To rewill nor steir þe land, nor iustice keip,
 Bot lyis still in lustis, slewtʰ, and sleip.

¹ MS. ‘þat at I.’

BANNATYNE]

The fair forrest *wit*h levis loun and le, 260
*Wit*h fowlis song, and flouris ferly sueit,
 Is bot the warld and his prosperite,
 as fals plesandis myngit *wit*h cair repleit.
Rycht as the roß *wit*h frost and wintir weit
 faidis, so dois þe warld, and thame dissavis 265
 quhilk in þair lust confidens havis.

Thir littill myß ar bot þe *commonte*,
 Wantone, vnwyß, *wit*hout correctioun :
 Thir lordis and princis quhen þat thay se
 of iustice makis non executioun, 270
 Thay dreid no thing to mak rebelloun,
 and disobey¹ ; for quhy thay stand none aw,
 That gavis thame thair soveranis to misknaw.

Be this fable 3e lordis of prudens
 may concidder the vertew of pete ; 275
 and to remyt sum tyme a grit offens,
 and metigat *mercy wit*h crewelty :
 oft tyme is sene a man of small degre
 hes quyt a *commoun*, baith for gude and ill,
 as lordis has done rigour, or grace him till. 280

Quha wait how sone a lord of greit renoun,
 rolland in warldly lust and vane plesandis,
 may be ourthrawin, distroyit, or put down
 Throw fals fortoun, quhilk of all varians
 F. 342 b. Is haill maistres, and leder of þe dans 285
 Till lusty men, and bindis thame so soir,
 That thay no *perrell* can provyd befor.

¹ MS. 'discobey.'

[BANNATYNE

Thir crewall men, þat stentit hes the nett,
 In quhilk þe lyone suddanely wes tane,
 Waitit alway amendis for till get, 290
 For hurte men wrytis in the marble stane.
 moir till expone as now I latt allane,
 Bot king and lord may weill wit quhat I mene ;
 Fegour heirop oftymis hes bene sene.

Quhen this was sayid, *quod* Isope, ‘my fair chyld, 295
 perswaid the kirkmen ythandly to pray
 That tressone of this cuntre be exyld,
 And iustice ring, and lordis keip thair fey
 Vnto þair souerane lord, both *nicht* and day.’
 And *with* þat word he vaneist, and I woik ; 300
 Syne throw þe schaw my iurney hamewart tuke.

Explicit : *quod* m̄r. R. Henrysone.

ASLOAN TEXT

(CHALMERS TRANSCRIPT)

HEIR begynnes the tale of þe wpland^s mouß
and þe borowstouñ mouß.

ISOPE, myn auctor, mak^s menciouñ
I Off twa myß, and þai war sister^s deir,
Off whom þe eldar in a borowstouñ,
The youngar woznyt apon land, wele neir,
Richt solitar, quhile wnder buske and brer, 5
Quhill in þe corne, an uþ^{ir} mennis scaith,
As outlawis dois, and levit on hir waitñ.

This rurall mouß in to þe wynter tyde
Had hunger, cauld, and tholit gret distreß.
The toþ^{ir} mouß into þe burgh couth byde, 10
Gild broþer was and maid ane fre burgeß;
Tol fre also, but custome mar or leß,
And licence had to gang quhar ev^{ir} scho list,
Amang þe cheiß and meile in ark and kist.

A tyme quhen scho was ful and wnfu[t] sair, 15
Scho tuke in mynd hir sister wponland,
And langit sar¹ to heir of hir welfair,
To se quhat lyf scho led wnd^{ir} þe wand:
Bairfut, allone, w^{it}h pykestaf in hir hand,
As pur pilgryme scho passit owt of toune, 20
To seike hir sister baith our daile and doune.

¹ Cf. pp. 14, 15.

ASLOAN-CHALMERS]

Throwe mony wilsome wayis couth scho walk,
 Throw mure [&] moß, throw banke, busk, & brer,
 Cryand on hir fra balk to balk,
 'Cum furth to me, my awne swet sister deir ; 25
 Cry pepe anys !' *with* þat þe mouß couth heir,
 And knewe hir woce, as kynnis men will do,
 Be *werray* kynd ; and furth scho come hir to.

The hartlie cheir, lord god ! gif 3e had sene,
 Was kythit quhen þir sister's twa war met ; 30
 The welcummyng was schawin thaim betwene,
 For quhilis þai leuch, and quhyllis for ioye þai grete,
 Quhilis kissit sweit, and quhilis *in* armes plete ;
 And þus þai fure, quhill soberit was þair mude,
 Syne fute for fut unto þair chalmer 3ude. 35

As I hard say, it was a semple wane,
 Off fog and farne full misterlyk war maid,
 Ane sely scheld wndir ane erdfast stane,
 Of quhilk þe entre was *nocht* hie nor braide ;
 In þai went samyn but more abaid, 40
 Withoutin fyre or cahdill birnand bricht,
 For *commonly* sic pykaris lufis no licht.

Quhen þai war lugit þus, þe sely myse,
 The youngast sister unto þe buttry hyid,
 Brocht furth nutis and peiß *instead* of spyß ; 45
 Gif þar was weilefar, I dud on þaim besyde.
 This burgeß mouß promptit furth *in* pryde,
 And said, 'sister, is þis 3our daly fude ?'
 'Quhy *nocht* ?' *quod* sche, 'think 3e þis meit *nocht* gud ?'

, [ASLOAN-CHALMERS

'Nay, be my saull, I think it bot a scorne.' 50
 'Madame,' *quod* sche, 'ȝe be þe more to blame ;
 My moder said, *eftir* þat we war borne,
 That ȝe and I lay baith in till a wame ;
 I kepe ye ryte and custome of my dame,
 And off my syre liffand *in* powerte, 55
 For land*is* haf we ȝane in *properte*.'

'My faire sister,' *quod* scho, 'hald me excusit,
 This rude diet and I can *nocht* accord ;
 Till tender meit my stomoke ay is usit,
 For quhy I fair alswele as ony lord ; 60
 Thir rude nuitt*is* and peß, or þai be bord,
 Will brek my teith, and mak my wame full sklender,
 Quhilk usit is befor *with* met*is* tender.'

'Weile, weile, sister,' *quod* þe rurale mouß,
 'Gif it ȝow pleiß sic thing as ȝe se heir, 65
 Baith meit and drink, herbery and houß,
 ȝe sall it have, will ȝe remane all yeir ;
 With richt gud will, baith blyth and hartlie cher,
 And þat suld mak þe mac*is* þat ar rude,
 Amang frend*is*, baith tend*ir*, sweit and gud. 70

'Quhat plesans is in fest*is* delicate,
 The quhilk ar gevin *with* a glowmand browe ?
 A gentill hart is better recreate
 With blyth wisage, þan set till him a cow ;
 A modicum is fer mair till allowe, 75
 Sa at gud will be carvour at þe deß,
 Than thrawin wult *with* mony spycit meise.'

ASLOAN-CHALMERS]

For all þis mery exhortacioun,
 The burgeß mouß had litill will to syng,
 Bot hevely scho kest hir browis douñ, 80
 For all þe dantes þat scho couth till hir bring.
 3it at þe last scho said, half *in* hething,
 'Sister, þis wittale and þis rial feste
 May weile suffyß for sic a rurale best.

'Lat be þis hole, and cum unto my place ; 85
 I sall 3ow schawe, be trewe *experiens*,
 My gudfryday is better na 3our paß ;
 My dische liking*is* is worth 3our hale expenß.
 Housß ynewe I have a gret defence ;
 Of cat, na trape, na fall, I haf na dreid.' 90
 'I grant,' *quod* scho, and on togidder 3eid.

In stowthry ay throw rankest gerß & corne,
 Wnder cowert full prevely couth crepe,
 The eldest mouß was gyde & 3eid beforne,
 The 3oungar till hir wayis tuk gud kepe. 95
 On *nicht* þai ran, and on þe day þai slepe ;
 Till in þe mornyng, or þe laverok sang,
 Thai fand e þe toune, and in gladly can gang.

Nocht fer fra þis unto a worthy wane,
 The burgeß brocht þaim syne quhar þai suld be ; 100
 In till ane innes þair herbery was tane,
 Intill a spence *wit*h wittale gret plente ;
 Cheiß and butter apone skelf*is* hie,
 Flesche and fische yneuch, bat*h* fresche & salt,
 And sek*is* full of grot*is*, meile, and malt. 105

[ASLOAN-CHALMERS

Eftir quhen þai disposit war to dyne,
 Withoutin grace þai wesche and went to meit,
 All kynd of courssis þat cukis couth devyne,
 Mutoune and beif strikin in talzeis grete;
 A lordis fair þus can þai counterfeit, 110
 Except a thing, þai drank þe wattir cleir
 In steid of wyne, bot 3it þai maid gud cher.

With blyth wpcast and mery countenance,
 The eldest sister sperit at hir gest
 Gif þat scho thocht be ressoun differens 115
 Betuix hir chalmer and hir sary nest.
 'Ye, dame,' *quod* scho, 'how lang now will þis lest?'
 'Evirmor, I wait, and langer to.'
 'Gif it sa be, 3e ar at eif,' *quod* scho.

¹ Thus maid þai mery quhile þai nicht na mar, 120
 And, 'haile 3ule, haile!' þai cryit apon hie.
 Eftir ioye ofttymes cummis cair,
 And truble eftir gret prosperite.
 Thus as þai sat in all þair iolyte,²
 So come þe spensar with keyis in till hand, 125
 Opinnit þe dure, and þaim at dyner fand.

Thai taryit noch to wesche, as I suppoß,
 Bot unto go quha nicht formast wyne.
 The burgeß had a hole, and in scho gois;
 Hir sister had no hole to hyde hir in: 130
 To se þis sely mouß it was gret syn,
 So desolate and will of a gud reid;
 For werray dreid sche fell in swoun ner deid.

¹ A stanza is here omitted. See pp. 22, 23, 288.

² Transcript, 'Jolyse.'

ASLOAN-CHALMERS]

Bot as god wald, it fell a happy caß ;
 The spensar had na laser for to byd, 135
 To serß, to seike, to char, nor 3it to chase,
 Bot on he went, and left þe dure wp wyde.
 This bald burgeß his passage wele has spyid ;
 Out of hir hoile scho come and cryit on hie,
 'How, fair Sister ! cry pepe, quhar ever 3e be.' 140

This rurale mouß lay flatlingis on þe ground,
 And for þe deid full sore scho was dredand,
 For till hir hart straike mony wilsome¹ stound,
 As in a fever trymblit fut and hand ;
 Quhen sche hir sister in to sic plyte fand, 145
 For werray pete scho began to grete,
 Syne comfort hir with wordis hony sweet.

'Quhy ly 3e sa ? ryß wp, my sister deir ;
 Cum to 3our meit, þis perrell is our past.'
 The toþir answerd with a hevy cheir, 150
 'I may nocht eit, I am so sair agast ;
 I had lever þir xl dayis haf fast,
 With watter caile, and gnawe benes and peiß,
 Than all this fest in þis dreid and diseiß.'

With fair trety 3it scho gart hir ryß, 155
 And unto burd togiddir baith þai sat ;
 Scantlie had þai drunken anys or twyß,
 Quhen in come gib huntar, our ioly cat,
 And bad god speid : þe burgeß wp with þat ;
 In at hir hole scho fled as fyre of flynt : 160
 Balderonis þe toþir be þe bak has hynt.

¹ Cf. pp. 24, 25, 289.

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Fra fut to fut scho¹ kest hir to and fra,
 Quhile wpe, quhile doune, alß tait as ony kid ;
 Quhilis wald scho¹ lat hir ryn wnder þe stra,
 Quhilis wald scho¹ wynke, and play with hir bukhed. 165
 Thus to þe sely mouß gret pane scho¹ did,
 Till at þe last, throw fair fortune and hap,
 Betwene þe dosor² and þe wall scho crap.

Syne wp in haist behynd þe perrelling
 So hie scho clame, þat gilbert mycht nocht get hir, 170
 And be þe clukis richt craftely can hyng,
 Till he was gone, hir cher was all þe bettir.
 Syne doune scho come quhen þair was nane to let hir,
 Apon þe burgeß mouß loude couth sho cry :
 ' Fair wele, sister, þi feist heir I defy ! 175

' Thy managery is mengit all with cair,
 Thy guß is gud, thi ganesall sower as gall ;
 The suchardis³ of þi ßervice is bot sair,
 Sa sall þou fynd herefterwart may fall.
 I thank þone courting and þone parpell wall 180
 Off my defence now fra þone cruell best.
 Allmyhti god, kepe me fra sic ane fest !

' War I anys in þe kith þat I come fra,
 For weile and wa I suld nevir cum agane.'
 With þat scho tuke hir leif and furth can ga, 185
 Quhylis throw þe corne, and quhilis thro þe plane ;
 Quhen scho was furth & fre, scho was full fane,
 And merely scho merkit unto þe mur :
 I can nocht tell how eftirwart scho fure.

¹ See p. 289 (note).² Cf. p. 289.³ See p. 290.

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Bot I herd saye scho passit till hir den, 190
 Alß warme in woll, suppoß it was *nocht* grete,
 Alß benely stuffit, baith but and ben,
 Of *nutis*, peß, benes, ry, and quheit ;
 Quhen evir scho list, scho had yneuch till eit,
 In quyet and eiß, withoutin dreid : 195
 Bot till hir sisteris fest no mor scho 3eid.

Moralitas.

Frendis, heir may 3e fynd, quhill 3e tak hed,
 In þis fabill ane gud moralite ;
 As fitchis mengit ar *wit* noble seid,
 Sa intermellit is *adversite* 200
 With erdlie ioyis ; so þat no stat is¹ fre,
 Without truble or sum wexacioun :
 And namlie þai quhilk clymmis wp most hie,
 And *nocht* content of small possessioun.

Blissit be sympill lyf withoutin dreid ; 205
 Blissit be sobir feist and quiete :
 Quho has yneugh, of no mor has he neid,
 Þocht it be litill in to quantite.
 Gret haboundans and blynd prosperite
 Oft tymes makis ane evill conclusioun ; 210
 Tharfor best thing in erd, I say, for me,
 Is mery hart *wit* small possessioun.

O wantoun man, quhilk usis for to feid
 Thy wame, and makis it a god to be,
 Luke to þi self ; I warne þe wele, on deid, 215
 The cat *cummis* ; unto þe mouß as E :
 Quhat is avale þi feist in rialte,
 With dreidful hart and tribulacioun ?
 Tharfor best thing *in* erd, I saye, for me,
 Is sikerneß, *wit* small possessioun. 220

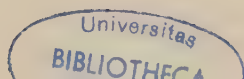
¹ Transcript, 'statis.'

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Thy awne fyre, frende, þocht it be bot a gleid,
 It warmis weile, and is worth gold to þe;
 As salamon sayis, and þou will it reid,
 'Wnder þe hevin I can nocht better se,
 Than ay be blyth and lif in quiete.' 225
 Quharfor I may conclude be þis ressoun:
 Off erdly ioye it beris mast degre,
 Blythneß in hert, with small possessiouñ.

Heir endis of þe twa myß.

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.



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